MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

29 APRIL 1982

Israel

West Bank, Gaza Unrest -- IDF soldiers fired at stone-throwing demonstrators near Hebron, killing one youth and injuring two others, Jerusalem radio reported. Two demonstrators were likewise injured in Nabulus. Earlier, the radio noted that five Nabulus residents were hospitalized after being shot by IDF soldiers in the course of stormy demonstrations, Jerusalem radio reported. An IDF soldier was wounded during the demonstrations in the city, which was placed under curfew. Five stone-throwing demonstrators were wounded in Ramallah, the radio said, and in clashes at the Gaza refugee camp of Jabalyah, four IDF soldiers and four of their attackers were wounded.

New Settlements, Demonstrations -- In a speech marking the establishment of Telem's Nahal settlement in the southern Hebron Hills, Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon called on Israelis to reconcile their differences by unifying round the Zionist banner of settlement, Jerusalem radio reported. Asserting that there is no connection between the Sinai evacuation and the settlement drive in Judaea, Samaria, Gaza and the Golan, Sharon said Jews and Arabs will live together in Judaea and Samaria forever. Peace Now demonstrators managed to evade IDF soldiers and interrupt Sharon's speech, the radio said, whereupon fighting broke out between the demonstrators and their opponents. Peace Now activists also demonstrated at the inauguration of a Nahal settlement in the 'Arava. Eleven Nahal settlements were established on Independence Day, the radio noted.

UK Request on Arms for Argentina -- The British Foreign Office summoned Israel's ambassador in London to ask if Israel has supplied helicopter missiles to Argentina since the invasion of the Falkland Islands, Jerusalem radio reported. Britain asked the Israelis not to supply any more arms to Argentina, according to the LONDON PRESS ASSOCIATION. However, Israeli Foreign Ministry officials have expressed "amazement" that the British Foreign Office publicized the meeting, thereby helping to spread "unfounded rumors" about Israel's stance in the Falklands crisis, Jerusalem radio noted.

Syria

Warning to Israel -- Syrian missiles in Lebanon will be fired at any Israeli aircraft within their range, a responsible Syrian source warned in reaction to Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin's latest statement on the Syrian missiles in the Al-Biqa' Valley, SANA reported. Syria will confront any Israeli aggression against the Palestinians and Lebanese, the source also cautioned.

Agreement With Fatah -- After a meeting in Damascus between Ba'th Party and Fatah officials to discuss a unified strategy of action, the two sides issued a joint statement, carried by SANA, that detailed nine points of agreement. These include: The establishment of a Syrian-PLO national strategy; agreement that the main effect of the Iraq-Iran war has been to remove Iraq from the confrontation with the "Zionist enemy"; a call for further entrenching cooperation with Iran's Islamic revolution; and agreements on the need to end the Lebanese crisis and bring about greater unity between Lebanese nationalist forces and the Palestinian Revolution.

Al-Asad USSR Visit -- President Hafiz al-Asad will shortly visit the Soviet Union, Monte Carlo radio reported citing Damascus sources.

Egypt

NDP Affairs -- President Husni Mubarak has appointed Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din as secretary general of the National Democratic Party (NDP), MENA reported. After an NDP Political Bureau meeting chaired by Mubarak, Muhyi ad-Din said attempts will be made to strengthen the NDP by making decisions about "leaders whose circumstances do not permit them to achieve the required performance" and by defining the party's ideology in a

clearer and more accurate way, according to another MENA report. On other subjects, Muhyi ad-Din said the Political Bureau stressed that Egypt will enter the autonomy negotiations with "enthusiasm and an intense desire" to achieve the goal of full autonomy for the Palestinians.

'Arab Welcome' for Sinai Recovery -- AL-AHRAM praised the "Arab welcome" for the liberation of the Sinai as expressed by the media of a number of Arab states, MENA reported.

Lebanon

A countryside strike was held to protest the assassination of Islamic Federations and Societies Chairman Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Eight persons, whose identity and political affiliation have not been disclosed, have been arrested in connection with the crime, the radio added.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Two Iraqi planes were shot down by Iranian Air Force fighters and crashed in the southwestern region of Iran, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio.

Iraq

The mediation of the Islamic and nonaligned committees has reached a dead end and no further hope can be pinned on it, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz declared in an interview with Kuwaiti newspapers reported by INA. Emphasizing that Iran has rejected the principle of negotiations, 'Aziz added that the Islamic Good Offices Committee "has failed completely."

'Aziz attacked the United States and said it is siding with Iran and encouraging Israel to supply Iran with weapons, spare parts and military experts.

Commenting on relations with the Soviet Union, 'Aziz stressed that they are normal and that the USSR is committed to implementing all of the contracts it signed with Iraq. When asked about mediation of the conflict between Syria and Iraq, 'Aziz said he believed Syria had closed all doors to efforts exerted in this regard.

Iran

Oil Sale Denial -- Government spokesman Ahmad Tavokoli denied the rumor that Iran is selling oil to the United States, Tehran's Arabic service reported.

Ahmad Khomeyni Interview -- Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri "is the only person capable of assuming leadership" in Iran in the future, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni's son, Ahmad Khomeyni, said in an interview with ETTELA'AT, IRNA reported. Montazeri's "unparalleled records of struggle" and "unwavering determination" qualify him as the country's supreme religious authority in the future, Ahmad Khomeyni added.

Saudi Arabia

An official Saudi source categorically denied that Saudi Arabia had links with any member of an alleged coup plot in Iran, SPA reported. Iranian authorities publicized the details of the alleged coup attempt in an effort to influence Iranian public opinion against Saudi Arabia and convince it to get rid of the opposition to the Iranian regime, the source added.

Libya

Libya's economic position is not difficult despite the "U.S. blockade" which is supported by Saudi Arabia, Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi asserted in a speech reported by Voice of Arab Homeland radio. Saudi Arabia has flooded the world market with oil to weaken the economic position of other petroleum countries that have rejected the domineering U.S. attitude, he added.

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GENERAL STRIKE PROTESTS SEPARATE PEACE TREATY

NC282025 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] A general and comprehensive strike was staged today in all Palestinian cities, villages and camps, and demonstrations broke out to voice the protest of the sons of our Palestinian people against the implementation of the separate peace treaty between the Egyptian regime and the Zionist entity at the expense of the Palestinian people, their cause and legitimate national rights.

The Palestinian masses responded to the call of the National Guidance Committee on declaring a general strike today. A committee member said the aim of the strike on the day when the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai will be completed is to voice our protest against the Egyptian-Israeli peace and to stress that there is a Palestinian cause and a Palestinian people.

VOP: IMPOSSIBLE FOR 'CAMP DAVID GAME' TO SUCCEED

NC282106 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Our people in the occupied homeland, the political operations rooms throughout the world have recorded the courageous widespread popular move that took place yesterday as a Palestinian answer to the current question: What are the opportunities for achieving autonomy?

The Palestinians gave their answer through the most courageous and widest-based popular move. Their answer was that it is impossible for the Camp David game to continue or for any results to be achieved through it. The world's states and peoples have recorded through uprisings that the Zionist repression, which became ferocious to produce political results before or after 25 April, was in vain. The Palestinian people's stand is as solid as the mountains, and the strength of this stand is greater and stronger than what the plotters imagine. It is "no" to autonomy, "no" to Camp David and "no" to the innovation of the disgraceful withdrawal. It is "yes" to the independent Palestinian state and "yes" to the PLO as the sole representative and leader. This is all the Palestinian people had before April and all they will have after April and until the Palestinian victory has been realized.

IRAQI DELEGATION MEETS WITH YASIR 'ARAFAT

JN290923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Beirut, 29 Apr (INA) -- The Iraqi parliamentary delegation led by Walid al-Khishali met last night with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The head of the Iraqi delegation gave a briefing on the Iraqi-Iranian war and on Iraq's readiness to confront the Iranian designs and continue its legitimate fighting until the Iranian regime recognizes Iraq's rights over land and water. He explained the repercussions inherent in the Damascus rulers' decisions to close the border with Iraq and halt the flow of Iraqi oil through Syrian territory, adding that these decisions would undoubtedly harm Iraq, Syria and Lebanon.

BAHRAIN

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ ON WITHDRAWAL FROM SINAI

GF261204 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 25 Apr pp 1, 4

[Text] The Arab people in Egypt have offered thousands of martyrs in defending the Sinai. Egypt has waged battles and wars to liberate the Sinai from the noose of Zionist occupation. Today, as the vanquished remnants of Zionist colonialism leave the Sinai, every Arab cannot but be happy at the purging from Arab soil of the disgrace of occupation despite all warnings surrounding the withdrawal that cause every Arab pain.

Perhaps the most significant of these warnings is that the withdrawal has been in accordance with the Camp David accords, which abused Egyptian blood and martyrs sacrificed for the sake of restoring national Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai. These accords disarmed most sectors of the Sinai, determined the number and quality of Egypt's forces, gave international forces the right to control some parts and coasts of the Sinai and imposed the presence of international forces -- composed mainly of U.S. Rapid Deployment Forces and financed and commanded by the United States -- on the Arab people in Egypt and everywhere else in the Arab homeland. These Rapid Deployment Forces threaten our Arab homeland. Egypt, by virtue of its commitments to the treaty on multinational forces, cannot liberate the Sinai from these forces without the approval of the United States and Israel. This fact guarantees the permanent, legal presence of these forces.

One of the other warnings accompanying the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai was Egypt's deepening of normalization with the Zionists: the exchange of consulates, establishments, communication lines, cultural, information, tourist and commercial programs with the Zionist enemy; Egypt's pledge of continuing the farce of autonomy for the Palestinians rejected by the Palestinian people in and outside occupied Palestine, considering it a Zionist substitute for the Palestinian right to self-determination and establishment of an independent Palestinian state; and the suspension of the issue of sovereignty over Egyptian Tabah until further notice.

These and other warnings catch in the throat of every Arab, because they stand between Egypt and its Arab nation and might obstruct Egypt's return to the bosom of Arabism. These warnings will remain broached to the new Egyptian leadership after the completion of the final Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. They raise the possibility of a new Egyptian policy that can surmount all these perils and return Egypt to the Arab fold.

MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER BOUABID ARRIVES ON VISIT

GF270730 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Manama, 27 Apr (WAKH) -- Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid arrived here from Kuwait this morning on an official 2-day visit. He was received on arrival by Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, senior Bahraini officials and Arab ambassadors in Manama.

The Moroccan prime minister will hold talks with senior Bahraini officials on current Arab, Gulf and international issues and matters of mutual interest. He is accompanied by Tayeb Bencheikh, secretary of state for the prime minister's office in charge of economic affairs [title as received] Mohamed Tougani, secretary of state for administrative affairs; Abdellatif Semlali, secretary of state for youth and sports; Ahmed Hmoud [name as received], secretary of state for foreign affairs; Mohamed an-Naciri, Moroccan ambassador to Bahrain; and Abdelkader (Touini), secretary of state for transportation [title as received].

Talks With Prime Minister

LD281342 Rabat MAP in English 1212 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Manama, 28 Apr (MAP) -- Moroccan-Bahraini talks began here Tuesday between the two countries' delegations chaired by visiting Prime Minister of Morocco Mr. Maati Bouabid and his Bahraini counterpart Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah.

The two delegations examined ways of strengthening economic cooperation through the creation of joint ventures and the opening of an airline between Morocco and Bahrain.

On the political plan, the two sides discussed issues of common interest, mainly the current situation in the Arab world, the Iraqi-Iranian conflict, the situation prevailing in the northwest African region as well as the Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and repression in the occupied Arab territories.

They expressed their willingness to endeavour in view of settling divergences among Arab countries and restoring Arab solidarity to face the Zionist enemy.

The two sides reaffirmed, on the other hand, their full support to the Palestinian people and voiced their regrets over the Iraqi-Iranian conflict and expressed their support to any initiative aiming at putting an end to the two countries' dispute.

Mr. Maati Bouabid briefed the Bahraini delegation on the tension in northwest Africa, recalling the initiative of King Hassan II in Nairobi to hold a referendum in the Saharan provinces recovered by Morocco. He also explained the full details of the masquerade of Addis Ababa and reaffirmed Morocco's stance.

The Morrocan premier extended an invitation to his Bahraini counterpart to visit Morocco.

On Tuesday evening, the amir of Bahrain offered a dinner in the honour of Mr. Bouabid and the delegation accompanying him. It was attended by members of the Bahraini Government and of the diplomatic corps accredited in Manama.

Mr. Bouabid is to leave Manama this Wednesday for Qatar, the third leg of his tour in the Gulf countries.

Joint Statement Issued

GF281119 Manama Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Apr 82

["Text" of Bahraini-Moroccan joint statement issued in Bahrain on 28 April 1982 in conjunction with Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid's visit to Bahrain 27-28 April 1982]

[Text] At the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, His Excellency Maati Bouabid, prime minister of the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco, led a high-ranking delegation on a visit to Bahrain from 4 to 5 Rajab 1402 Hegira, corresponding to 27-28 April 1982.

The distinguished guest and the accompanying delegation were accorded a warm official welcome as an expression of the sentiments of brotherhood and friendship binding the peoples and governments of the two fraternal countries.

The distinguished guest was honored to meet with His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Hassan II of the Kingdom of Morocco expressing his greetings and the sentiments of brotherhood the Moroccan people have for the Bahraini people.

Official talks between the Bahraini side, led by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, and the Moroccan side, led by Prime Minister Maati Bouabid, were held in an atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding. Ministers and senior officials of the two countries participated in the talks.

The talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of strengthening and developing them in order to serve the interests of the two fraternal peoples. The Arab and international situation was also discussed during the talks. Views on these matters were identical.

With regard to bilateral relations, the two sides affirmed their joint desire to promote cooperation in all spheres. They agreed to strengthen their cultural and trade relations and tourist investment, and to begin operating air routes between the two countries in order to facilitate the travel of their citizens and promote tourism and trade between Bahrain and Morocco.

The two sides also agreed to strengthen sports and youth relations and to exchange visits of sports teams and youth delegations.

The two sides reviewed the serious situation in the Middle East as a result of Israeli persistence in its policy of aggression. The two sides emphasized that a just and lasting peace in the region can only be achieved by Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, the recognition of the Palestinian people's inalienable right to self-determination and to establish an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole and legitimate representative.

The two sides denounced the repeated savage Israeli attacks on the holy places, the most recent of which was the abominable crime perpetrated by the Zionists in violating the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and attacking the worshipers in the Mosque -- a defiance of and a disregard for the feelings of all Muslims throughout the world.

The two sides also condemned the recent treacherous aggression against Lebanon and Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon. In this regard, the two sides paid tribute to the popular uprising that swept the occupied Arab territories in protest of the inhuman and repressive measures imposed by the Zionist enemy on the Palestinian people.

The Bahraini side lauded the efforts of the Jerusalem Committee headed by King Hassan II to defend Jerusalem and regain Arab and Muslim solidarity.

The two sides reviewed the current situation in the Gulf and emphasized the responsibility of the area countries. They stressed the need to keep the area free of superpower rivalry. The Bahraini side explained the GCC's aims and achievements. The Moroccan side reaffirmed its support for the GCC as a positive instrument of regional cooperation and a constructive step toward Arab unity. The Moroccan side lauded the GCC's achievements and emphasized its support for the GCC's steps toward further coordination and cooperation with the aim of safeguarding the interests of the peoples of the area.

The two sides discussed the tension in the Arab Maghreb and expressed hope that security and peace will be established and cooperation maintained among the area countries in order to further their people's interests and prosperity.

The two sides reviewed joint Arab action and agreed Arab differences are an obstacle to Arab solidarity. They asserted clearing the Arab air is the only way to confront threats. They agreed to attempt to clear the air among Arab countries and to provide a favorable climate for the resumption of the 12th Arab summit in Fes at the earliest opportunity.

The two sides expressed their great anxiety at the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and reaffirmed their support for all efforts to stop this war.

When reviewing the current international situation, the two sides stressed the need for all countries to intensify their efforts to promote international peace and security and establish the bases for cooperation among states in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter, particularly respect for the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of states, noninterference in the internal affairs of other states and the settlement of disputes among states by peaceful means.

The distinguished guest Maati Bouabid expressed his great admiration for the achievements and developments accomplished by the Bahraini people under the leadership of Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of the State of Bahrain, and his wise government. He expressed his thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome and generous hospitality accorded him and the accompanying delegation by the Bahraini Government and people. He invited Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah to make an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco. His highness gratefully accepted the invitation and promised to make the visit, at a date to be fixed later.

Issued in Bahrain on 5 Rajab 1402 Hegira, corresponding to 28 April 1982.

Leaves for Qatar 28 April

GF280654 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Manama, 28 Apr (WAKH) -- Moroccan Prime Minister Maati Bouabid left Manama for Doha today at the end of an official 2-day visit to Bahrain that came as part of his tour of the area.

KUWAIT

MAATI BOUABID VISITS, HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

LD271320 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Apr (MAP) -- Mr Maati Bouabid, Moroccan prime minister, said here Monday that the visit of the Moroccan delegation to Kuwait has been a success.

At a press conference on the eve of his departure, the prime minister underlined the identity of views on all topics discussed with his Kuwaiti counterpart, Crown Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah, mainly bilateral relations, Palestine, southern Lebanon, the conflict in the north west African region and Afghanistan.

On the Moroccan-Kuwaiti talks on the economic level, Mr Bouabid said "We have presented to our Kuwaiti brothers solutions to the problems of the Moroccan-Kuwaiti consortium. Moroccan experts have also submitted to their Kuwaiti counterparts a project for creating a business bank between the two countries."

"We also asked our Kuwaiti brothers to participate in the financing of certain projects that figure in the Moroccan 1980-1985 five year plan" he disclosed.

On the social plan, Moroccan and Kuwaiti experts have examined bilateral cooperation in the fields of information, youth, sports and telecommunications.

Evoking the Middle East crisis, Mr. Bouabid said: "You know Morocco's policy regarding the Arab cause. Morocco is an Arab country and considers itself as a country of the confrontation front, because, he added, as proved by history, our sons died on the Golan and in Suez."

The prime minister stated, on the other hand, that Morocco maintains diplomatic relations with the United States and that King Hassan II, chairman of the Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Committee and of the Arab summit conference is keeping in touch with the United States. He announced in this respect, that King Hassan II will visit Washington next month for talks with U.S. officials mainly on this issue.

Regarding the summit of Fes, Mr. Bouabid said that its reconvening requires a total agreement on the Arab policy to follow. After our previous contacts with the secretary general of the Arab League and several leaders, we thought that the summit might resume in June but after my talks with the Kuwaiti crown prince it is possible that the summit resumes its works after Ramadan, he said.

On the conflict in north west Africa, Mr. Bouabid underlined that there was not a war between Morocco and the "Polisario" but between Morocco and Algeria. What is called "Polisario" is but a creation of a neighbouring country. He recalled in this respect the decision of King Hassan II to hold a referendum in the Sahara, a decision the Algerians balked at through the secretary general of the OAU in the Addis Ababa masquerade.

Mr. Bouabid added that this conflict poses to Morocco some problems but that despite this, "Our country is carrying on its development plan." "We do not consider ourselves in war despite these obstacles," he precised. On the Iraqi-Iranian war, the prime minister reaffirmed Morocco's support to Iraq, wishing, however, that an end be put to this dispute.

On the unity of the Maghreb, Mr. Bouabid said that the history of this unity was written by the bloodshed of our chouhadas (martyrs) to free the countries of the region. If the march towards this unity has stopped it is up to the Algerians. During my visit in Tunisia, I convened with my Tunisian counterpart to reestablish this unity step by step.

Talking about the Iraqi-Syrian conflict, Mr Bouabid said at the time being, any Arab country which supports Iran to destroy Iraq does the same thing as Israel which provides Iran with weapons.

We have relations with Syria and we will do all we can to come up with a solution.

One Egypt's return within the Arab world after the recovery of the Sinai, the prime minister stated that Egypt is an important country and that every Arab country must endeavour for the return of Egypt.

Joint Communique Issued

LD271124 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Joint Kuwaiti-Moroccan communique issued on Moroccan Prime Minister Bouabid's visit to Kuwait 24-27 April]

[Text] At the official invitation of His Highness Shaykh al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister, His Excellency Maati Bouabid, Moroccan prime minister, paid an official visit to Kuwait 24-27 April 1982.

His excellency and the accompanying delegation were given a warm reception that expressed the depth of the ties and fraternal links between the two sister countries and their peoples. His excellency met his highness the amir and delivered a verbal message to him from his brother, His Majesty King Hassan II, which contained the sentiments of friendship and the desire to consolidate fraternal ties and strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields.

During the visit and in an atmosphere dominated by the spirit of understanding and friendship, official talks were held. They were chaired on the Kuwaiti side by his highness the heir apparent and prime minister and on the Moroccan side by his excellency the Moraccan prime minister.

Both sides reviewed the development of bilateral relations and expressed complete satisfaction with achievments in all fields, confirming their determination to continue to widen the scope of constructive cooperation between them in realizing the interests, aspirations and common expectations of their frateral peoples. They agreed to convene a mixed committee chaired by the finance ministers of the two countries next month in Kuwait in order to implement the joint projects agreed to both countries.

They also agreed to lay down steps for the implementation of the cultural agreements between them. Both sides also studied current Arab problems, especially the development of the Palestine problem and the critical stage through which the Arab nation is going -- which is a result of the escalation of the Zionist aggression in Palestine and the occupied Arab territories -- and the enemy's expansionist plans and projects. Both sides expressed their full support for the honorable struggle the Palestinian people are waging to recover all their national rights. They are led by the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

Both sides also discussed the dimensions of the abominable crime committed by the Zionist enemy with its aggression against the sanctity of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and its latest air aggression against resistance bases and Palestinian camps in Lebanon. They once again confirmed their countries' condemnation of the stands of the superpowers which encourage Israel's continuing aggressions and its repeated violations of international resolutions and all human values and principles. They also confirmed the extreme necessity for a serious and speedy move at all levels to implement Arab and Islamic resolutions concerning backing the steadfastness of the Palestinian people and protecting Islamic holy places in holy Jerusalem.

They also stressed in particular the need to strengthen Arab solidarity, a basic demand that cannot be postponed and that calls above all for ending all side disputes and for mobilizing all capabilities around fateful problems. Both sides also agreed to continue the efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere in preparation for resuming the 12th Arab summit in Fes as soon as possible.

Both sides reviewed the situation in Lebanon and confirmed their solidarity with the fraternal Lebanese people and their support for all efforts aimed at achieving security and peace in Lebanon and at maintaining its independence and territorial integrity under its legitimate authority.

Both sides reviewed the situation in the Arab Gulf. The Moroccan side praised the progress and achievement of the GCC in the interests of the peoples of the region in maintaining peace and stability away from international conflicts and interventions of all forms. Both sides expressed deep anxiety at the continuation of the Iraqi-Iranian war and their support for all the efforts aimed at ending it.

In the African arena, both sides expressed their determination to work to consolidate Arab-African relations and to strenghten Arab-African cooperation in the interests of the Arab and African peoples and their prosperity.

Both sides' views were in agreement in relation to all international problems of common interest. Both sides praised the good results achieved by this visit and confirmed the need for the continuation of meetings and contacts at all levels between officials of the two fraternal countries.

His Excellency Bouabid expressed the admiration and appreciation of the progress and prosperity in all fields in Kuwait under the leadership of His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah. He also expressed gratitude for the welcome accorded him and invited His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah to visit Morocco. The invitation was accepted and the date will be set later.

OMAN

SULTAN QABUS GREETS MUBARAK ON SINAI RETURN

NC282154 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Cable of "congratulations" from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak -- no date given]

[Text] Your Excellency Brother President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

When following up the news of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai after a 15-year occupation and when the Egyptian flag is fluttering on every inch of the land of Arab Egypt, we cannot but convey to you in our name and on behalf of the Omani people our heartfelt congratulations and admiration for the efforts you exerted and the patience you manifested until the withdrawal was completed and the occupation ended.

In the meantime, we hope that the welter of joy will not make us forget holy Jerusalem and the affliction of the occupation which it and the other occupied Arab territories are suffering. By our firm faith in God Almighty, we look forward to the day soon when we see the Arab flags flying in all the Arab territories which have been occupied since 1967. This is not too much for God.

Please accept, dear brother, our wishes for your excellency's health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of the fraternal Egyptian people. May God grant you success. God's peace and blessings be with you.

[Signed] Your brother, Qabus ibn Sa'id

SAUDI ARABIA

SOURCE DENIES INVOLVEMENT IN IRANIAN COUP PLOT

LD282042 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1845 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Riyadh, 28 Apr (SPA) -- An official Saudi source has categorically denied the kingdom had any link with any member of the alleged coup attempt in Iran. The Iranian authorities publicized the details of the alleged coup attempt in an effort to influence Iranian public opinion, mobilize it against the kingdom and convince it to get rid of the new opposition to the Iranian regime.

The source said the kingdom had no link with Iranian opposition leader Ayatollah Shari'atmadari or his son-in-law, and that the latter's claim he had visited the kingdom and had with met one of its senior officials is not true.

The source stressed the kingdom's constant desire to establish fraternal relations with Islamic countries, including Iran. He stressed the kingdom's constant attempts to establish its relations with others on a foundation of mutual understanding, respect and noninterference in the internal affairs of others.

DEFENSE MINISTER ON AWACS FOR GCC, NAVAL COLLEGE

GF271800 Ad-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 26 Apr 82 pp 1, 6

[Falih as-Saghir article]

[Text] Defense and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz expressed Saudi Arabia's readiness to meet the wish of the GCC countries to make use of the AWACS aircraft which Saudi Arabia recently bought from the United States.

Answering a question from AL-YAWM on how much the GCC countries are benefitting from the AWACS aircraft, he said this depends on their wishes.

Prince Sultan affirmed the Iranian aircraft that landed at a Saudi airbase more than 1 month ago has been returned to the Iranian Government and the two pilots were permitted to go to Europe in accordance with their request.

Prince Sultan said the naval college to be established in the eastern province will serve the navy. AL-YAWM has learned admission to the naval college will not be restricted to Saudis. Nationals of GCC countries will be admitted within the framework of cooperation and coordination among area countries. The naval college is the first of its kind in the region. Its establishment will decrease the number of students sent to study at naval colleges abroad, particularly in the United States and Pakistan.

PDRY

SOVIET DELEGATION ARRIVES FOR 'FRIENDSHIP WEEK'

EA282202 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The Soviet-Yemeni friendship week will be inaugurated this evening in the hall of the Higher School of Scientific Socialism with a speech and artistic festival.

Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Central Committee, received in his office yesterday a Soviet delegation participating in friendship week activities, headed by Comrade Suren Vartanyan, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Armenian Soviet Republic. He arrived at the head of a delegation of the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries.

The developing relations of friendship between the two peoples and countries were discussed at the meeting. Brother 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir stressed the importance of strengthening and developing these relations. He also praised the USSR's stand and the efforts it is exerting to support the causes of peace and socialism in the world and its firm and principled stands in support of the causes of the Arab peoples, headed by the Palestinian cause, and support of the peoples of the world for liberation, social progress and peace.

SUDANESE OFFICIAL ARRIVES, LAUDS SINAI RECOVERY

NC282326 Cairo MENA in English 2258 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA) -- Speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly as-Sayyid 'Izz ad-Din as-Sayyid arrived here tonight on a three-day visit to Egypt to convey his country's congratulations marking the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

He expressed belief that Presidents Husni Mubarak and Ja'far Numayri will continue the course of the Arab march. He hailed the Egyptian martyrs and particularly later leader President as-Sadat.

The Sudanese parliamentarian was welcomed by Speaker of the People's Assembly Dr Sufi Abu Talib and Sudanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd ar-Rahman Salman.

A Sudanese parliamentary delegation is currently visiting Cairo to take part in the celebrations marking the final Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

AAPSO CHAIRMAN GREETS MUBARAK ON SINAI RETURN

NC281647 Cairo MENA in English 1637 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA) -- Chairman of the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) 'Abd ar-Rahman ash-Sharqawi sent a congratulatory message to President Husni Mubarak on Israel's withdrawal from Sinai. The message underlined that such an historical achievement was brought about by virtue of the sacrifices presented by the people of Egypt and of the understanding which world public opinion, at the forefront of which were the Afro-Asian peoples, showed for the justice of the Arab cause.

The message furthermore ascertained that a permanent solution and the establishment of a comprehensive peace could only be ensured through a full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly Arab Jerusalem, and by respecting the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right of return and self-determination and the right to create their own independent state upon their national soil.

Ash-Sharqawi pointed out that Egypt under President Mubarak assumed a major and fundamental role in that respect in view of its location at the heart of the Arab world and its leading role within the Non-Aligned Movement and national liberation.

MUBARAK REPLYS TO ARAB LEADERS' CABLES ON SINAI

Reply to Hassan II

NC281923 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has sent the following message to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco: Your Majesty King Hassan II, king of Morocco: On behalf of myself and the Arab people of Egypt, I convey to Your Majesty the sincerest expressions of thanks and gratitude for your kind telegram in which you have expressed your fraternal feelings and the brotherly Moroccan people's feelings on the occasion of the liberation of the Sinai and the resumption of Egyptian sovereignty over this noble part of the sacred Arab land.

The Egyptian people are always proud that their brothers in Morocco stood by their side in the same trench in the glorious October battle through which our nation has recovered its dignity and pride and opened the way for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Middle East issue from all perspectives, particularly the cause of the fraternal Palestinian people.

The noble Moroccan blood that was shed on the soil of the Sinai in defense of righteousness and justice has written a bright page in the history of authentic Arab solidarity based on faith in the oneness of fate and on serious work to safeguard the Arab nation's rights and defend its vital interests.

Egypt will continue to wage its struggle and make its sacrifices for the sake of the legitimate Arab and Islamic rights -- reinforced by this great achievement and supported by all peace-loving forces that believe in the triumph of righteousness and welfare.

I invoke God to bestow success and happiness upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Reply to Omani Sultan

NC282156 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Reply message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Omani Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id -- no date given]

[Text] Your Majesty Brother Qabus ibn Sa'id, Sultan of Oman:

I received with gratitude your kind congratulations on the return of the Sinai to Arab Egypt. By virtue of its historical and Arab responsibility, Egypt will continue its positive role until the Palestinian people exercise their right to self-determination.

It gives me pleasure to convey to you and your fraternal people my profound gratitude for your support to our efforts which are aimed at establishing a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and for the noble sentiments you expressed in your cable toward me and your brothers in the Republic of Egypt, who reciprocate to you the most profound feelings of amity, appreciation and respect.

I convey to you my sincerest greetings coupled with my wishes for Your Majesty's good health and happiness and for the progress and dignity to your people. God's peace and blessings be with you.

[Signed] Your brother, Muhammad Husni Mubarak

Reply to Siad Barre

NC282147 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 28 Apr 82

[Reply message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Somali President Maj Mohamed Siad Barre -- no date given]

[Text] Your Excellency President Mohamed Siad Barre, president of the Somali Democratic Republic. I received with gratitude the cable of congratulations Your Excellency sent on the occasion of the immortal evacuation day and the recovery of the sacred Sinai. It gives me pleasure, dear brother, to convey to you and to the people and government of fraternal Somalia my profound gratitude and deep appreciation for your noble sentiments and sincere wishes to your second homeland, Egypt.

It pleases me on this occasion to reaffirm that the people of the Arab Republic of Egypt look with admiration and reverence at the efforts you and your people are exerting for the success of the questions of security and just peace in the Middle East in solidarity with all advocates of security, freedom, stability and peace.

I convey my sincerest greetings to you coupled with my wishes for your good health and happiness and continuous progress to the fraternal Somali people. With my esteemed regards.

Reply to Gabon's Bongo

NC282247 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Reply message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Gabonese President Omar Bongo -- no date given]

[Text] Your Excellency President el-Haj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon:

I have received with gratitude your kind congratulations on the Sinai's return to Egypt, whose sons have struggled to liberate their national soil. Their struggle, in war and peace, has served as an honorable model for people who believe in man's right everywhere to live reassured about his present and future.

We recall with appreciation and admiration your stand on our side and your support for us. We look confidently to the continuation of this positive role, so that a just and lasting peace will engulf the Middle East.

I take pleasure in expressing to you and to your brotherly people the sincerest expressions of thanks for your noble sentiment toward me and toward your brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt, who reciprocate your deepest amity and strongest respect. Please accept my sincerest greetings. I give you and your fraternal people my best wishes.

[Signed] Muhammad Husni Mubarak

AL-AHRAM ON ARAB REACTION TO SINAI RECOVERY

NC282359 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2254 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA) -- The Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM praises the Arab welcome given to the liberation of the Sinai -- a welcome which has been voiced through newspapers and radios in a number of Arab states. AL-AHRAM notes some papers consider this withdrawal a new victory scored for the whole Arab nation.

In its commentary in tomorrow's edition, Thursday, AL-AHRAM says this tune augurs well and reflects the good stances of sharing taken by the peoples of these states.

The paper hints this tune confirms that Arab public opinion was indeed supporting the peace efforts, as long as these efforts were leading to the liberation of the land, and that the accusations of squandering and the falsehood of defeatist solutions -- which were being superficially reiterated in the course of Arab politics -- were not expressive of the inner feelings for a meticulous followup of the developments in the peace process.

The paper says: If these statements are the most eloquent corroboration of the boundness of [Egypt's] policy, it is a certainty that hoisting the Egyptian flag over all of the Sinai presaged the venting of a deap-seated joy, which surged forth and showed on faces and which was expressed verbally. The reason is the restoration of Egypt's rights merely and ineluctably projects in the mind the image of the possibility of the restoration of all Arab rights now that an example has been set and now that Egypt has gained ample experience with which it can contribute to propelling the remainder of the procession to its objective.

AL-AHRAM adds: As far as recovering the land is concerned, and as expressed by President Husni Mubarak in two speeches in 2 successive days, Egypt's logic was simple and firm at the same time. This was illustrated when the president affirmed that the October heroes, who liberated the land, couldn't possibly have conceded this land. The president also affirmed that Egypt's insistence on recovering all its territory derived from Egypt's insistence on its dignity and on giving its martyrs their due. The reason is that the land is sacred -- and it returned only through struggling, giving of ourselves and working hard.

AL-AHRAM draws the conclusion that this logic, naturally, applies to all Arab territories and that the victory, that Egypt has achieved for itself and for all the Arabs, will inevitably light for Arabism the path it should pursue to recover its remaining rights.

AL-AKHBAR NOTES ARAB STAND AFTER SINAI'S RETURN

NC280958 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 28 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] On the Arab stand following the liberation of the Sinai, AL-AKHBAR notes that the Arab stand has assumed a new image, the signs and indications of which are evident to the whole world. This image is represented in the reports that have been carried by Arab radios and newspapers. They welcome the liberation of the Sinai, stressing that this is not an achievement benefiting Egypt alone but the entire nation as well.

AL-AKHBAR notes Riyadh radio reports expressing this prevalent conviction. The radio said the Arabs lost a great deal in the past because they exhausted all their strength in words, rejection and protest. What must be achieved at the Arab level to deal with the situation following the withdrawal from the Sinai must be represented in genuine, sincere and clear moves by Arab countries. The paper also notes the cable that King Husayn of Jordan sent to President Mubarak, congratulating him on the liberation of the Sinai and its return to Egyptian sovereignty. King Husayn expressed Jordan's appreciation of Egypt's historic stand on Palestine and the Arab cause and lauded its vanguard role, saying it will remain a firm and strong role toward restoring Arab rights. In opening the National Consultative Council yesterday, King Husayn reiterated that the Arab nation is at present facing one of the gravest stages in its existence. He said this situation makes it incumbent upon us to achieve further cooperation and unity within the Arab ranks. The paper says this is considered to be a new Arab position in both form and trends facing up to the responsibilities of the future.

Egypt is delighted with this situation, not because it praises its stand and policy but because the Arabs are now united in one realization and proceeding toward a goal on which they concur to achieve further cooperation and unity of ranks, as King Husayn said. It is clear that adherence to this policy will make the Arabs a power capable of facing up to their responsibilities. This will expedite the achievement of their demand for their rights, which in the past they disregarded, involving themselves in much talk which led to dissension and disintegration.

AL-AKHBAR says the policy with which Egypt achieved the liberation of the Sinai is the same policy with which Egypt will face the postwithdrawal period and the autonomy talks. It is a policy aimed at achieving a just peace, a policy in which all the Arab countries now believe. There is no country that believes that it is capable of war alone. Peace will inevitably lead to a result in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Continuing, AL-AKHBAR says: Since the idea of peace is the prevailing conviction among the Arabs, what is preventing them from facing up to their responsibilities in sincerity and frankness and realizing the liberation of the Sinai now dictates that they cooperate to liberate the rest of the Arab territories in a front involving a number of Arab countries.

NDP GROUP DISCUSSES ARAB, DOMESTIC ISSUES

NC281317 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1125 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA) -- The National Democratic Party [NDP] Political Bureau held a meeting this morning in Al-'Urubah Palace under President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. Following the meeting, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din stated that the NDP Political Bureau today discussed Arab issues in general and agreed to complete the discussions at another meeting after further studies are prepared.

Muhyi ad-Din said that during the meeting, the NDP Political Bureau stressed Egypt's adherence to the Camp David accords as the strategy and basic framework of Egypt's foreign policy and the principle from which Egypt will not depart. He said the NDP Political Bureau stressed the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel is another basis in our foreign policy. We will enter the autonomy negotiations with the Israeli side with enthusaism and an intense desire to reach resolutions that will achieve the goal of these negotiations and affirm full autonomy for the Palestinians.

Muhyi ad-Din continued: We will, as we have agreed, start negotiations with Israel again. The date for the resumption of these talks has not yet been fixed. We hope we will achieve positive results.

Asked whether the letter King Husayn of Jordan sent to President Mubarak expresses tacit hints about Jordan's readiness to participate in the autonomy talks, Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din said: We did not view the message on this basis. The message was a good initiative from His Majesty King Husayn, offering congratulations on the occasion of the liberation of Egyptian territory. We were happy with this cable and the president sent a cable in reply.

Asked if he could shed some light on the current Arab situation following the Israeli withdrawal, the prime minister said: Our strategy, as the president has already declared, is that we will not answer any attack on Egypt by any Arab country. We are open to the Arab world within the framework of our responsibilities and commitments. This is the basis of our moves within the Arab world.

Asked whether Egypt has received any messages from West Bank leaders since 25 April requesting that it return to the Arab fold, Dr Muhyi ad-Din denied having received any direct messages from any West Bank leaders or any other Arab leaders other than what has been announced.

On President Mubarak's meeting today with the Somali and Sudanese delegations, Muhyi ad-Din said that both delegations came to Egypt to participate in our celebrations. He said both countries and the Sultanate of Oman have distinguished relations with Egypt, adding that our meetings are constant, close and affirm special commitments.

Asked whether the NDP Political Bureau today discussed any issues other than the Arab situation, the prime minister said the Arab situation within the framework of the entire situation in the Middle East absorbed most of the meeting.

Answering a question on the date for the resumption of the autonomy talks, Dr Muhyi ad-Din said no date has been set yet.

Regarding reconstruction of the Sinai, his excellency said this subject will be discussed at the Cabinet meeting today.

Asked if there are any party changes, Muhyi ad-Din replied: President Mubarak has issued a decision appointing a secretary general of the National Democratic Party.

Other decisions will be issued regarding some of the party's leaderships, whose circumstances do not permit them to achieve the required performance. We will define the ideological structure of the party in a more accurate and clear way, whereby there will be an ideological strategic line binding the party members and enlightening the cadres on every levels. We want to complete the structure from the base to the summit. We want the party to be more in touch with the people, working for the solution of their problems with all its ability and for the consolidation of this contact. We mainly want the party to create leadership that can give and which are able to contact the people and influence them and to confront the opposite way of thinking.

Muhyi ad-Din added: Democracy must be established on strong parties. When we give a real and strong rush to strengthen the NDP, then this will be tantamount to the consolidation of democracy in Egypt as a whole. It will be an addition to democracy when an opposition party becomes strong and can stand on its feet. The majority party must be most mobile, active and effective party. We hope this will happen in the coming stage.

Asked about the labor day celebrations, the prime minister said President Husni Mubarak will address the labor federation on this occasion. The federation chairman and Cairo governor will also make speeches, in accordance with the tradition followed on such occasions.

Asked whether there is a new agreement on supplying arms to Iraq, Muhyi ad-Din said: The supply of arms to Iraq is continuing, as we have declared more than once. This question was not discussed at today's meeting.

Asked if there has been an agreement on a specific date to begin measures to resolve the Tabah problem in accordance with article seven of the peace agreement his excellency said: Israel has withdrawn completely from this area and the borders we have fixed are now the new borders. We have not yet entered this approximately 1,000-meter-long area where the multinational forces are now deployed. Negotiations have taken place between us and the Israeli side on this place in accordance with the provisions of article seven. We will evoke these provisions to determine the special position of this part -- Tabah.

Asked if a U.S. envoy will arrive in Cairo, the prime minister answered: This issue was not discussed at today's meeting. However, the Americans will undoubtedly participate in the negotiations, reconcilliation and arbitration.

Regarding the domestic situation and economic policy, the prime minister said that this will be defined in the government statement which will be delivered at the People's Assembly in the middle of next month.

MUHYI AD-DIN APPOINTED NDP SECRETARY GENERAL

NC281039 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 28 Apr (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, leader of the National Democratic Party [NDP], has issued a decision to appoint Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din secretary general of the NDP.

This was stated by Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din after the NDP Political Bureau meeting, which lasted approximately 2 and 1/2 hours.

353 DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY

NC271220 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1205 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 27 Apr (MENA) -- It has been decided to release 353 persons who had been detained under the emergency law.

Interior Minister Hasan Abu Basha issued a decision in this respect today after it was established that the persons to be released constitute no harm to national security.

According to an Interior Ministry source, Hasan Abu Basha has directed that the release order be implemented immediately and that all persons released be assisted in returning home.

AL-MUSAWWAR REPORTS MORE DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED

NC290830 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0800 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 29 Apr (MENA) -- The magazine AL-MUSAWWAR reports that many persons now in detention will be released in the first half of May. The weekly reports in its Friday edition that lists of the names of the persons to be released are being prepared and that it is expected that only those involved in the terrorist organization case will remain in detention.

AL-QABAS INTERVIEWS HUSAYN ON WAR, SYRIAN ACTIONS

GF281743 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 27 Apr 82 pp 8, 9

[Interview granted by President Saddam Husayn to editors in chief of Kuwaiti newspapers, in Baghdad on 25 April 1982]

[Excerpts] Question: What is the real military situation on the front?

Answer: If you are asking about the military situation, you know that from the beginning we said that we have no ambitions in Iranian territory, nor do we want to humiliate the Iranian Army or people. We do not want Iran or any country to humiliate our people and army or humiliate the people and army of any other Arab country. An Arab official came to me before the war and expressed concern over Iran's behavior. I told him: Convey my greetings to your [Arab] brothers and tell them not to expect the danger to reach you as long as there is one Iraqi living because we will be the dam against it; but if there is no Iraqi living it is just to shoulder your duty.

I want to say that from the beginning we said we do not want to humiliate Iran but we also reject the humiliation of Iraq or any Arab country. I want to say that this was said before. When they threatened to occupy Baghdad, we told them: It is not our habit to make threats but we tell you that neither you nor anyone else will be able to occupy Baghdad as long as there is one Iraqi living. They imagined that they could occupy Baghdad. We have been fighting for 20 months and we are still in Qasr-e Shirin, Mehran, Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshar], Hoveyzem, and Khosravi, and we are still occupying a broad and vast area of land.

Question: It is noticed that you are personally participating in the battle. Do you not see that this is dangerous?

Answer: The people are right in their concern over this; however, I cannot leave [the battle] now. If I ask my people to fight, I must fight with them. This is a promise which I made in my first speech as president.

Question: What resources do you have to cover the expenses of the war? What is the impact of Syria's closure of borders with Iraq and its closure of Iraq's oil pipeline?

Answer: Every situation requires a certain stand. In the past, oil passed through Syria and Turkey and we received some loans from our Arab brothers. Now the passage of oil through Syria has been stopped and we have to consider the situation in light of this closure.

In studying the war we see that one of the first reasons that made the evil powers concentrate on Iraq is that Iraq is building [itself] in a special way. It is not building a palace or a tomb for the unknown soldier but building in a completely integrated economic, political and cultural way. Man is not shaped through speeches. When the Iraqis stood fast for 20 months, it was a new thing for them and for their children. They are fighting at a time when they are looking far ahead. The continued construction is one of the excellent things the Iraqis have to defend. As for war and its time limit, this is determined through circumstances. As long as we have arms, we will continue to fight; we have to either fight or surrender. The Iranians have a plan not only to tie Iraqis with ropes, but to kill them.

Since this is the case, we have to fight to the end. So far our resources have provided us with bread and arms. It is enough for the people who are in such a situation to have bread and arms.

If the Syrian rulers imagine that the closure of the border will break the spirit of the Iraqis, they are deluded. Rather, this has made the Iraqis -- not the officials but the citizens -- believe more deeply that the multisided threat makes it incumbent upon them to fight and sacrifice all they have.

Question: Did Syria close the oil pipeline to hit Iraq's economy or does it have another, wider strategic goal?

Answer: Any economic damage is inseparable from the outcome of the war; instead of sending 10 divisions to Iran they have closed the pipeline. There are many examples. Have you heard any Arab official state that the Syrian stand is a bad one and that the pipeline must not be closed? Have you heard this? This stand contravenes Arab League regulations. Before that, Arab brothers used to deny that the Syrians are in league with Iran. What is the situation now? Thisseries [of measures] will not make us lose our patience toward all our brothers, God willing. This was expected. You say: How will you counter this? I say: We will counter it; we will eat bread and look for ammunition. This is enough.

Question: It is said that Egypt has supplied you with arms. Is this true?

Answer: Yes. We purchased arms from Egypt and we said this before. In the past, we used to purchase arms through mediators. Then we began to purchase them directly from Egypt and at an agreed price.

HASAN 'ALI RETURNS FROM EAST EUROPEAN TOUR

JN291059 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Apr 82

Text] Baghdad, 29 Apr (INA) -- Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister, returned to Baghdad last night at the end of a 10-day tour during which he visited Yugoslavia, Hungary and the GDR. In a statement to INA, 'Ali said the Yugoslav, Hungarian and GDR leaders had asked him to convey their greetings to President Saddam Husayn and their best wishes for progress and success to the Iraqi people. He added that his talks with officials in these countries were extremely successful and reflected the support and appreciation Iraq's stands enjoy on the international level regarding all issues of mutual concern.

PRESIDENTIAL ENVOYS DEPART ON ARAB GULF TOUR

Amin to Bahrain, Oman

JN270817 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 27 Apr (INA) -- 'Abd al-Fattah Muhammad Amin, Revolution Command Council member and minister of local government, left Baghdad for Manama this morning on a tour that will also take him to the Sultanate of Oman. In a predeparture statement, the official said he is carrying messages from President Saddam Husayn to Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah and to Sultan Qabus dealing with relations between Iraq and these two countries, the current Arab situation and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

Ibrahim to UAE, Qatar, YAR

JN280808 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Apr (INA) -- Hikmat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council member, left Baghdad this morning with messages from President Saddam Husayn to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani and YAR President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The messages deal with bilateral relations, the current Arab situation and the Iraqi-Iranian war.

KING HUSAYN CONTINUES ARAB TOUR WITH OMAN VISIT

JN281339 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Amman, 28 Apr (INA) -- Jordan's King Husayn left for the Sultanate of Oman this afternoon on a short visit. This completes the tour of several Arab countries he began recently.

It was announced here that the Jordanian monarch will hold talks with Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id on developments in the Arab region, ways of strengthening Arab solidarity to confront the challenges facing the Arab nation and issues of mutual interest.

Accompanying his majesty are Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Court Minister 'Amir Khammash and other officials.

GOVERNMENT WILL SUBMIT WEAPONS REQUEST TO U.S.

JN270641 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Washington -- U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger has said Jordan will submit a request to the United States on the supply of American weapons to Jordan. He added that this requestwill be studied seriously within the next few days.

AMMAN PRESS COMMENTS ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL

JN261032 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Press review]

[Text] In their editorials today, Jordanian papers comment on the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai yesterday and the return of the entire Sinai to Egyptian sovereignty.

Under the headline "The Battle of Egypt and all the Arabs," AR-RA'Y writes: Many Arabs have always been keen to excuse the Egyptian leadership while placing its Arab role on equal footing and importance with its new relations with the Zionist entity. When Husni Mubarak came to power, there was an increase in the number of persons who were making excuses and calling for waiting until the last signs of the storm had been revealed and until the last Zionist soldier had withdrawn from the Sinai.

Although we firmly believe that this concept ignores the core of the problem and deals with its marginal effects, we saw the calls to give time to the Egyptian leadership as healthy and positive proof that all Arabs were eager for Egypt's return to its proper position in the one Arab body.

Knowing the number of restrictions that are still chaining the Egyptian leadership, we cannot call on Egypt to immediately rennounce all its agreements with the Zionist enemy, but the Egyptian regime should make this its principal aim at the current stage and use all its potential to achieve this in the shortest possible time. Arabs yearning for Egypt's return should feel that Egypt also yearns to return to them and that in order to achieve this is must be capable of waging a firm battle against the fractures inflicted on the Arab body by the Camp David accords. To be fair we should say that there is a principal role the Arabs must play in order to help Egypt wage this battle and achieve victory. Removing the Camp David effects and restoring the Arab march to its right path is not Egypt's battle alone but the battle of all Arabs. All battles facing the Arab nation now and in the future depend on the success of this battle.

Under the headline "Reagan and the Reverse Path," AD-DUSTUR says: In U.S. President Reagan's latest message to Israel's Prime Minister Menahem Begin, there is a new pledge that after the withdrawal from the Sinai the peace efforts will not deviate from the framework drawn up by the Camp David accords. In this message there is stress on three restrictions.

The United States embarked on one of these restrictions long ago and continued to support Israel with all its political, financial and military potential regardless of the extent of the aggressive Israeli policy and the way U.S. support for the Israeli aggression reflected on the image of the United States and its relations with the Arabs, Muslims, nonaligned countries and the rest of the world, which no longer hide their concern over continuing Israeli aggression and unreasonable U.S. support for this aggression.

One of the two other restrictions stressed in the U.S. President's message was imposed on the peace process and the other added to the host of restrictions with which Egypt found itself burdened when it signed the Camp David accords and the unilateral peace treaty with Israel. Restricting the peace process and restricting Egypt are interrelated. The period since the signing of the Camp David accords was unintentionally meant to be a test of Israel's real aims behind these accords. These aims have emerged clearly in its settlements, terrorism, creation of village leagues and civilian rule. All these are different names for the sole target of Judaizing Palestine after getting rid of its people in every possible way. However, the Arabs have rejected this plan and fought against it. After the test, their rejection became stronger and the image of the Zionist danger became clearer and more horrible. This has foiled the U.S. attempts after the signing of the ill-omened agreements to make the Arabs accept these agreements.

As for Egypt, the problem is more complicated. Knocking at the door of peace in Palestine from Cairo has been a great mistake from the beginning, because the crux of the Arab-Israeli conflict has been and will always be that of Palestine. If Israel and the United States have succeeded in removing Egypt from the Arab fold, this certainly does not mean that Egypt's exit from the battle means peace in Palestine. Peace can only begin with Jerusalem exactly as the first sparks of the conflict began in Jerusalem.

Finally, liberating the Sinai can never be acceptable when one's will is so seriously mortgaged. However, it is unfair to ask Egypt to explain its stands so soon.

JORDAN TIMES VIEWS EGYPTIAN-ARAB RELATIONS

JN281345 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28 Apr 82 p 4

[Editorial: "Ball in Our Court"]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak strikes us as a man of dignity, poise, honour and self-respect. Since taking over from the late President Sadat, he has indicated that his regional policies will aim at restoring a measure of normalcy with the rest of the Arab states while not endangering the gains of the separate peace treaty with Israel. Now that the Sinai has been returned to Egypt, and peace with Israel has been consummated, everyone's attention seems to have turned to the question of future Egyptian-Arab relations.

We remain impressed by the personal sincerity and resoluteness of President Mubarak's statements about the need for Palestinian rights to be fully achieved. He seems more willing then his predecessor to take a principled stand on the Palestine issue and stick with it. But we are still unconvinced that the realism and forcefullness of Mr. Mubarak alone can have any effect on an Israeli state that is living and making war on the basis of unlimited American support. Our suspicion is that the Israelis do not take Egypt too seriously, now that the peace between them has been sealed, and that the Americans will not want to do anything to upset a growing military relationship between Cairo and Washington. Therefore we are anxious to see if Egypt can have an influence on Israel and the USA in terms of making peace with the Palestinians, while the prospects for restored Egyptian influence in the Arab world are slim given the reality of normal Egyptian-Israeli diplomatic ties. What we have now is an Egyptian nation and president with enormous dignity and self-satisfaction, but questionable power to influence events in the region. The ball remains in the Arabs' court, not in Egypt's.

EIGHT SUSPECTS ARRESTED IN 'ASSAF CASE

NC281730 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Lebanon went on strike today in denunciation of the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf, chairman of Islamic federations and societies. The assassination case has been referred to the Council of Justice, because the crime is an attack against national security.

Eight persons suspected of committing the crime have been arrested. Their identities and political affiliations have not been disclosed.

General Strike Held

NC281018 Paris AFP in English 0958 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Beirut, 28 Apr (AFP) -- Beirut and principal towns as well as mountain villages were hit by a general strike today in protest against Monday's assassination of Sunni religious leader Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf.

Religious leaders of the Sunni, Shi'ite and Druze Islamic communities called the strike, which was backed by the leftist Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the united Christian militias and the Lebanese Front, a coalition of conservative parties.

The strike has closed down the eastern and western sectors of Beirut and Sidon, in southern Lebanon. All of Al-Biqa', in central Lebanon, and Tripoli, in the north, have been affected. Schools, banks, government offices and shops have been closed.

Shaykh 'Assaf's funeral takes place today.

Cabinet Meets, Comments Made

NC281518 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Amid a general and total strike in all parts of Beirut and various parts of Lebanon, the funeral of His Eminence Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf took place in mass procession after prayers were said for the repose of his soul in the Mosque of 'A'ishah Bakkar.

The Cabinet met early today under the chairmanship of President Ilyas Sarkis. The meeting ended at 1115 to enable Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan and other ministers to participate in the funeral. The president of the republic was represented in the funeral by Prime Minister al-Wazzan, who marched in the forefront of the procession along with prominent religious and political figures and ministers, deputies and representatives of parties and organizations.

At the outset of the Cabinet meeting, President Sarkis spoke about the assassination of Shaykh 'Assaf in the present circumstances, expressing his sorrow and extolling the deceased's virtues and attributes and his efforts and benevolent endeavors in the interest of a united Lebanon.

President Sarkis added: It is indeed regrettable that the unstable security situation in the country should lead to violent and terrorist acts aimed at spiritual and religious leaders among others.

After the Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan answered questions put to him by journalists.

[Begin recording] [Al-Wassan] Naturally, the security situation dominated Cabinet meeting discussions. The meeting was an occasion during which everybody, particularly his excellency the president, denounced this outrageous and hideous crime that has violated the spiritual values that we in Lebanon have sought to adhere to and defend.

It was also an occasion for me to express my appreciation for the united stand the whole country has adopted in denouncing this incident and at the total expression of denunciation by the closure of stores and institutions in the most magnificent and united manner, as we have seen, hoping that this united stand will awaken us so we may have clarity of vision and look ahead. Perhaps the evil that befell us yesterday will mark the beginning of wakefulness to which I have referred so we may proceed forward on the path of agreeing on all our basic and essential affairs, especially at a time when we are being subjected to the greatest dangers by a lurking enemy who now feels safe after his withdrawal from the Sinai. Although we are joyed by this withdrawal because it signifies the return of an Arab land to its people, the basic problem remains. The resolution of the Palestinian issue has not been accomplished thus far. In these difficult circumstances and in view of the constant dangers we feel we are facing as a result of the current plot, we must continue to unite our ranks and confront all dangers.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister: Have the investigations of the assassination of Shaykh 'Assaf achieved any results?

[Answer] The investigations are underway. It is not beneficial to talk in details about this matter. However, I can emphasize that we are determined to follow this case to the end and will not leave it since it has become the issue of all Lebanese by the feelings they expressed today. [end recording]

SHAM'UN, AL-JUMAYYIL DISCUSS STRIKE, UNITY

NC281340 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpts] At its weekly meeting this morning, the Lebanese Front discussed the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf and its consequences in the Lebanese arena, particularly at the national level.

Commenting on the assassination, former President Camille Sham'un said: We have nothing to add to the statements Pierre al-Jumayyil and I have issued. We consider the general strike staged in Lebanon today a blessed sign and a step toward national unity.

Sham'un added: We always hear that a settlement of the Lebanese question depends on the realization of an understanding among the Lebanese. We believe the comprehensive strike in denunciation of the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf is a big step forward along the path of agreement among the Lebanese people. The strike is an indication of the feeling for the need for solidarity in the face of all events, be they in the quarters or in the areas.

Sham'un was asked: How do you reconcile your call for a strike today and your opposition to the journalists strike when press doyen Riyad Taha was killed? He answered: The journalists strike was confined to the press only, whereas today's strike is connected with the Lebanese situation as a whole. Today's strike is a cry against the unusual actions and the factions that have vowed to destroy Lebanon materially, economically, politically and spiritually.

Asked his opinion about the fear expressed by Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov on the negative effects of the withdrawal from the Sinai on the situation in Lebanon, Sham'un said: This is an opinion that Ambassador Soldatov alone has expressed. We do not believe there is anyone who shares this opinion other than those who march in the bandwagon of the communist or leftist states.

Pierre al-Jumayyil considered the general strike in denunciation of the crime of the assassination of Shaykh Ahmad 'Assaf as a good upsurge which Lebanon has long yearned for so that its two wings [Christians and Muslims] may agree to save the country. It would be a great crime if we did not know how to achieve a real agreement among the various Lebanese families.

The Phalangist leader added: Lebanon can only be saved through an understanding between its two original wings. In view of the sincere stands and feelings and the calls for safeguarding the interests of Lebanon, we appeal to the real representatives of Lebanon -- the Islamic Grouping, the Supreme Shi'ite Council, the Amal movement, the Lebanese Front and all the other Lebanese organizations -- to establish a base for understanding in order to save Lebanon.

DEFENSE MINISTER SKAF RETURNS FROM U.S.

NC272101 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] National Defense Minister Joseph Skaf returned to Lebanon this afternoon from the United States following discussions with senior U.S. officials led by Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger on the situation in Lebanon and the area and the U.S. role in helping Lebanon overcome its ordeal.

Minister Skaf described his visit as fruitful. He said: I explained the Lebanese issue and discussed the question of strengthening the Lebanese Army by supplying it with equipment.

Answering a question, the defense minister said: I believe that following Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, an Arab-U.S. rapproachement is likely. As I have said, I have obtained assurances about Lebanon's sovereignty, unity and independence. It might be some time before the Lebanese question is resolved, but there is a theory which advocates that the U.S. officials work concurrently on settling the Lebanese question and the Middle East question.

IRAQI DELEGATION MEETS CHAMBER SPEAKER AL-AS'AD

NC281757 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpts] At 1130 today, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad received in his office in (Tallat al-Khayyat) an Iraqi parliamentary delegation led by (Walid al-Khishali) and composed of deputies Ghanim 'Aziz, Diya' Yahya and Muhammad Amin Panjawini, accompanied by the Iraqi Embassy charge d'affaires in Lebanon ('Abd al-Latif Na'imi).

After the 1-hour meeting, (Al-Khishali) answered a question by saying: In fact, we discussed with his excellency the speaker, in his capacity as chairman of the Arab Parliamentary Union, a number of parliamentary matters of mutual interest. We brought with us an official request from the National Assembly in Iraq that an emergency meeting of Arab parliaments be convened to discuss the motives and dimensions of the Iranian aggression against Iraq and to focus light on recent measures interrupting the flow of oil through Syrian territory.

On his meeting with the Iraqi parliamentary delegation, Speaker al-As'ad said: The delegation gave us a written message containing the call for convening a special Arab parliamentary conference to discuss the Iraqi-Syrian political situation. Views were exchanged and consultations were held with the delegation on the current international and Arab situation.

He said: On this occasion, we reviewed the resolutions and recommendations which were adopted by the recent Arab parliamentary conference, all of which aimed at the need for putting an end to the existing Arab division through the establishment of a unified Arab front having a unified plan against the common enemy.

BEIRUT PRESS DISCUSSES ISRAELI SINAI WITHDRAWAL

NC280816 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Press highlights]

[Excerpts] The newspapers this morning focus their attention on the security situation and the concerted efforts aimed at consolidating security. They note that embassy security forces have assumed their duties. The papers also discuss the post 25 April phase and prominently report the reaction to the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai and possible implications. The papers note Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's speech and his statement that the events in Lebanon and in the West Bank call for expanding the framework of peace.

The newspaper AS-SAFIR regards the withdrawal from the Sinai as an action remote from peace and stresses the importance of Arab action, particularly the upsurge of the people in the occupied territory and the demonstrations in Rafah. On the reaction, the paper says the government will make high-level contacts to explore the broad lines and the new trends of U.S. policy in the area following the Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

ASH-SHARQ says that while France and Japan welcomed the withdrawal from the Sinai, Moscow regards the withdrawal as a comedy and as a betrayal of the Palestinians and Damascus expects the coming phase to be a very difficult one.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says any peace between the Arabs and Israel cannot be achieved through mere withdrawals from the occupied territories. What is needed besides the withdrawal is recognition of the Palestinian people's right to repatriation and self-determination.

Al-'Amal says that in the coming phase it appears that the U.S. peace cannot stop at the Sinai border or be limited to what has been achieved so far between Egypt and Israel. Otherwise, all that has occurred since As-Sadat's journey to Jerusalem up to the evacuation of the last Israeli soldier from Rafah will be liable to collapse.

AL-ASAD REPORTEDLY TO VISIT SOVIET UNION 'SOON'

JN290604 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will soon pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. This was disclosed in Damascus yesterday by knowledgeable sources, which did not specify the date or duration of the visit. However, the sources affirmed that President al-Asad will hold a series of talks with Soviet President Brezhnev and Kremlin leaders on new developments in the Middle East. The sources added that al-Asad will ask Soviet officials to increase military aid to Syria.

PRIME MINISTER ON SADDAM HUSAYN SPEECH

JN282012 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1925 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Commenting on a speech by the head of the Iraqi regime, Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm has said the following:

The Arabs do not agree that Iran is their enemy, yet they unanimously agree that Israel is the enemy threatening the Arab nation and that it wants to build a state from the Nile to the Euphrates. However, the Iraqi regime's concern has always been to weaken Syria in the confrontation with Israel.

Strong evidence of this is that this regime has not fulfilled its financial commitments decided upon during the Baghdad Arab summit conference in April 1981, which was long before the breakout of the Iraqi-Iranian war. This regime also cut off oil to Syria for 3 consecutive years 1975-79. Furthermore, the Iraqi regime did not adhere to the provisions of the agreement signed by the two countries according to which the Iraqi regime was committed to sending oil supplies to Syria even in extraordinary circumstances such as war and natural disasters.

This regime insisted on weakening Syria in the confrontation with Israel and interfering in Syria's security by opening training camps for saboteurs, sending booby-trapped cars to kill citizens and large amounts of arms to carry out disgraceful crimes in Syrian cites and damaging economic installations.

We have numerous documents concerning this regime. All these documents confirm the fact that this regime is serving the real enemy of the Arab nation.

AL-BA'TH SCORES JORDANIAN, IRAQI STAND ON EGYPT

JN280813 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0637 GMT 28 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH says: King Husayn considers the replacement of Israeli forces with U.S. and NATO forces in the Sinai as a victory for Egypt. However, what has happened in the Sinai is the occupation of Egypt by the United States.

The killers' regime in Baghdad, which has destroyed the Iraqi Army, has unequivocally asserted that it is a basic side no less important in U.S. strategy than the Egyptian and Jordanian regimes. The Baghdad executioner's statement yesterday on purchasing weapons directly from the Egyptian regime without any mediators confirms this fact. It also confirms that Iraq's executioner has joined the Camp David alliance.

SYRIAN-PALESTINIAN COMMITTEE MEETS IN DAMASCUS

NC281330 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The joint Syrian-Palestinian committee is holding a meeting in Damascus today. The Palestinian side is led by Brother Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], member of the Fatah Central Committee. The Syrian side is led by 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

Attending the committee session on the Palestinian side are Brothers Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] and Abu Mahir [Muhammad Ghunaym], Fatah Central Committee members, and on the Syrian side Brothers Muhammad Haydar, Ba'th Party National Command member, and Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs.

At today's meeting, the committee is expected to endorse the proposed action plan drawn up at previous meetings. It has been learned that if the plan is approved, a high-level meeting will be held in Damascus on Saturday to be attended by Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Statement Issued

JN281705 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 28 Apr (SANA) -- The delegations of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Fatah movement resumed their talks at the Foreign Ministry this morning in order to complete their discussion of a unified strategy of action between the two sides.

The delegations were led by Comrade 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Brother Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member.

The following statement was issued at the end of the meeting:

The Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Fatah movement delegations held a series of meetings to reach a unified strategy to confront the Zionist enemy, achieve a comprehensive liberation and set up the basis of cooperation between Syria and the PLO in all spheres.

The two sides deeply and comprehensively reviewed the Arab and international situations, the Arab-Israeli struggle and the dangers threatening the Arab nation as a result of the existing strategic alliance between the Israeli enemy and the United States, the alliance that ensured the Camp David and the Egyptian-Israeli agreements. They also reviewed the designs to fragment, confuse, paralyze and distract the Arab nation from focusing on the confrontation of the Zionist enemy and its expansionist objectives in the Arab homeland.

The following points have been achieved during these meetings:

1. Setting up the main principles for a national strategy to which Syria and the PLO will adhere. This strategy will be forwarded to a meeting to be held within a week between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation and a PLO delegation comprising all Palestinian factions. They will discuss what was agreed upon, lay down the practical schemes and establish the organizations and bodies capable of implementing the joint national action strategy between Syria and the PLO.

2. While reviewing the Arab situation, the two delegations noticed with deep concern that some Arab sides are trying to join the Camp David process to complete the links of the plot aimed against Arabs. This was the case in the messages of congratulations sent to the Egyptian regime by some heads of Arab states.

The two sides asserted that they long to see Egypt resume its national role after it frees itself from the Camp David and Egyptian-Israeli agreements as well as the results ensuing from them, and after it fully adheres to the national commitment of facing the Zionist enemy.

3. While reviewing conditions in the region, the two sides agreed that the main result of the Iraqi-Iranian war is that it has removed Iraq from the confrontation with the Zionist enemy, which followed the removal of Egypt from this confrontation. The two sides believe this war has also created a problem overshadowing the main cause and paralyzing the role of the Arab states in confronting the Israeli enemy.

4. The two sides underlined the importance of the eruption of the Islamic revolution in Iran, which is a strategic ally of the Arab nation in its struggle against the Israeli enemy. The two sides stressed that this revolution has ended the U.S. presence in Iran and has raised the slogan of liberating Palestine. The two sides also underlined the importance of further entrenching cooperation with this revolution.

5. The two sides stressed the importance of establishing Arab solidarity on the basis of antagonizing Zionism and imperialism and mobilizing all Arab capabilities in the face of the Zionist entity, since the Arab nation's struggle against this entity is a struggle to defend its destiny, existence and future.

6. The two sides also discussed the situation in Lebanon and noticed the danger of the continuation of the Lebanese crisis. They emphasized the importance of working to end this crisis in a way that guarantees the unity of Lebanon and its land and people; brings about Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion; protects the Palestinian revolution and promotes its role of struggle against the Zionist enemy.

7. The two sides discussed the Israeli threats to Lebanon that come within the framework of Israel's expansionist plans in Lebanon and the liquidation of the Palestinian resistence, something that will fulfill a link in the chain of Israel's aggressive plans.

8. The two sides reiterated their support for Lebanon in facing Israeli plans and asserted that they will exert all efforts to further strengthen the unity of Lebanese nationalist forces and the cohesion between the Palestinian revolution and Lebanese nationalist forces and their masses in the steadfast south to face Israeli aggression.

9. The two sides confirmed that through the Arabs' political struggle at various international forums against the Zionist enemy's measures in the occupied territories -- beginning with the decision to annex the Golan Heights and ending with the fascist racist measures against our kinfolks' uprising in the Golan Heights, the West Bank, Gaza and the rest of occupied Palestinian territory -- it has become clear that international public opinion and the overwhelming majority of states support our just cause and fully realize the threats embodied in the Zionist enemy and its U.S. imperialist ally and the danger they constitute to international peace and the future of its peoples. Our kinfolks' uprising in the occupied Arab territories and their fierce heroic confrontation with the Israeli war machine will only further entrench international public opinion's faith in our right and will promote the support of peace-loving forces for our struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

PDRY FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES, MAKES STATEMENT

JN282020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1925 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpts] PDRY Foreign Minister Salim Salih Muhammad arrived in Damascus at 1930 today. Muhammad brings a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the PDRY Council of Ministers.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent, Salim Salih Muhammad expressed his happiness at visiting Syria, the edifice of Arab steadfastness.

He said: I will convey a message to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad from President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad dealing with recent Arab developments.

He added: My visit to Damascus comes within the framework of consultations and discussions with fraternal Syrian officials in order to coordinate and further promote cooperation between the two fraternal countries and to further strengthen the role of the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front in the face of the imperialist-Zionist onslaught against the region.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES MESSAGE FROM SAUDI KING

JN261241 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1000 today Saudi Education Minister Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, who conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz on the situation in the region.

President al-Asad asked Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir to convey to His Majesty King Khalid a reply message as well as his greetings and brotherly wishes.

CHIEF OF STAFF LEAVES TRIPOLI FOR DAMASCUS

JN271300 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi, Syrian chief of staff, left Tripoli for Damascus this morning following a 24-hour visit to Libya during which he conveyed a letter from President Hafiz al-Asad to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution. The letter dealt with the situation in the region and fraternal bilateral relations. General ash-Shihabi was seen off at Tripoli airport by Mustafa al-Kharrubi, Libyan chief of staff; high-ranking officers in the Libyan Armed Forces; and Munir Barghal, head of the Syrian relations office in Tripoli.

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DELEGATION RETURNS FROM POLAND

JN261211 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] The People's Assembly delegation headed by assembly speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi returned to Damascus this morning after a 5-day visit to Poland at the invitation of the Polish National Assembly.

In a statement to SANA upon arrival, Az-Zu'bi said: Our visit to Poland has been successful and useful. The meetings and talks we held with high-ranking officials there stressed the strong friendship between Poland and Syria. This friendship grows stronger every day, especially since both countries are waging one battle, confronting a common enemy and standing in one trench against imperialism, reactionaries and their allies.

KHADDAM RETURNS HOME FROM NEW YORK 24 APRIL

JN240619 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 24 Apr 82

[Text] 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, returned from New York yesterday evening after attending the extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly on the Palestinian issue.

TEXT OF BEGIN INDEPENDENCE DAY INTERVIEW

TA281800 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Prime Minister Menahem Begin interview with Knesset correspondent Razi Barqay and political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Question] Mr Prime Minister, happy holiday to you. Every year we hold a traditional interview with you on Independence Day. It seems as though this Independence Day is not just any Independence Day -- either for you or for us. The first question we would like to ask you is personal: Have the events of the last few weeks -- what is termed the Egyptian violations and what happened in Yamit -- aroused in you some second thoughts and remorse regarding the peace agreement with Egypt?

[Answer] What remorse are you talking about? On the contrary! Not only was I at peace with myself, but I was looking forward to the day when we would be able to fulfill our international commitment. However, I had other feelings, too; I suffered very much emotionally.

When the evacuation of Yamit, in accordance with our international commitment, was near, all of a sudden a very serious crisis erupted in our relations with Egypt. The Egyptians violated certain conditions stipulated in the peace treaty that are very important: they introduced military units into the demilitarized zone and into the thinning-out zone, units that should not be in either of those areas; they ignored, if not cooperated with, the arms smuggling from Al-'Arish -- the source of the arms being Lebanon, of course -- into the Gaza Strip. To cite an example, we seized more than 500 handgrenades that had been smuggled in in this fashion. In addition to all this, the political and moral problem was raised that while there is a peace treaty and there are the Camp David accords, all of a sudden Dr al-Majid, the Egyptian representative to the UN Security Council made some speeches.

First he spoke before the Security Council itself and attacked Israel with virtual verbal violence. Later in Kuwait -- first in an interview with the press, in which he said that after the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai the problem of liberating the other conquered Arab land will begin, no more and no less, and later at the conference of the nonaligned countries -- Dr al-Majid delivered a speech and included in it an 11-point document. Its headline -- in Hebrew -- says: "Egyptian Plan." When I read to Dr Ghali these words in an English translation he said: No, the Arab word Dr al-Majid used does not mean a plan but guidelines [qavey hitnahagut]. All right, I of course accept the opinion of Dr Ghali, who is most probably an expert on the Arab language. To my regret, I have never learned that language. He said they were guidelines for conduct.

But what are these 11 points? That a Palestinian state will be established in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza; that Israel will withdraw to the 4 June 1967 lines; that Arab sovereignty will be applied either to the whole of Jerusalem or to parts of it; that the 1948 refugees will be given the free choice to either return or be compensated financially. In short, this is a plan that spells the annihilation of Israel in stages, not immediately, but still the extermination of our country. So I asked both our friends the Egyptians and our friends the Americans: Do you imagine that we will undertake the crucial step -- actually a kind of leaping departure from the Sinai -- while we hear such things and observe such acts? I said clearly: We will consider the possibility of postponing the withdrawal of our forces by 1 month and give you a chance to correct the deviations and I clearly talked about the possibility that we might consider a postponement up to 25 May 1982 at 1400 GMT. As a result of our position, we saw that Egypt corrected these wrongs.

I also suffered some pain for another reason: All of a sudden, about 2 weeks ago, I was told that people were planning to commit suicide in the Yamit District, including rabbis who threatened to take their lives with their own hands. That was one of the most shocking things one could ever hear; these were people's lives that we were talking about. I said I would prefer to resign and not spill blood. Of course if, God forbid, someone had committed suicide, no one could have said that someone else had spilled his blood. He would have been to blame for taking his own life, but I also learned something when I was young, namely that suicide is forbidden according to all the rules of the Jewish heritage and tradition, and when people uttered some words about Massada -- what Massada? Is this the end of our home or our country? On the contrary; never was our power as immense as it is these very days. So should one now commit suicide? One should live in Eretz Yisra'el. It is necessary to guard Eretz Yisra'el, to build it. Still, such threats were made and this naturally caused me a great deal of suffering.

Later, we all witnessed the struggle between the opponents of the withdrawal and the army, and we were able to say that there is no army in the world like the Israeli Army. After all, any other army would have positioned machineguns opposite the rooftops, would have presented an ultimatum to everyone to come down in an hour or else it would have been brought down on stretchers -- dead or wounded. Our army did not act this way. Of course, it all depends on the political leadership. The commanders explained to their subordinates that those opposing them are not the enemy but wonderful people. We heard these words with our own ears, and they were unarmed because we did not give them arms. They endangered their lives -- I saw it with my own eyes, and you must have seen it too -- how the ladders were pushed back toward the abyss. Had they fallen, the soldiers might have -- heaven forbid -- been killed, or at least seriously injured. But this is how the army acted, quietly and calmly, suffering abuses and beatings and not reacting. The result was however that not even one drop of blood was shed. So the proof was given, 34 years later that one can manage even without the holy cannon. A dispute between brothers does not necessarily have to turn into a civil war.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, you are the first prime minister to give an order to uproot settlements. Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said yesterday that many errors were committed and that the uprooting of settlements could have been avoided. The question, Sir, is whether truly there was no possibility of preventing the uprooting of settlements?

[Answer] My dear friend, the way you phrased your question is impertinent, but I have no complaints and I will answer your question. I issued no order that settlements should be uprooted; nothing of the sort. This is a libelous statement. I am speaking a bit angrily because of the way you formulated your question. I fought for the settlements in the Yamit District to remain intact in Camp David to the very last day and did not give my consent. I left a letter with President Carter, and it is written and I can read it, in which I wrote: Two weeks after my return home I will present the following question to the Knesset: Are you in favor of leaving the settlements or are you in favor of evacuating them? The vote will be free, devoid of any party or coalition discipline and each Knesset member will vote in accordance with his own conscience. Then I came and proposed two votes: one on the Camp David accords per se, and the other on removal or nonremoval of the settlements. I wish I had been listened to and that two separate votes had been held.

Since each Knesset member was allowed, in accordance with my word to President Carter, the President of the United States, to vote according to his conscience, that was how it could have been possible for there to be a majority -- from part of the Alignment, with the majority of the Likud, the NRP and others -- against the evacuation. Then the Knesset would have decided against the evacuation, and I would have told President Carter: I did what I promised you. So how can you say that I ordered settlements to be uprooted? This is distorting reality, really a libel. Why should it be spread?

[Question] In other words, in your opinion....

[Answer, interrupting] Then the Alignment demanded that only one vote be held. Mr Shim'on Peres knows this, and hints had been spread that if two votes had taken place the Alignment members might not have taken part in them arguing that if there were two separate votes, people would have said -- and forgive me for citing this quote -- Begin brought peace whereas we, the members of the Alignment evacuated settlements. So they said no; there must be a joint vote. The fact of the matter is that I am sick and tried of repeating this affair over and over again. The Alignment members always jump up and say that I am shirking responsibility. I am the last person to try to shirk responsibility. I announce here that I am the prime minister and I am responsible for everthing that takes place in this country. As long as I am prime minister I will shoulder this responsibility. And I take responsibility for the evacuation of the Yamit District, too, but the factual historic truth is that I never gave the order for settlements to be evacuated. I fought for the settlements to remain intact.

But later, when the Alignment's demand that a joint vote be held was accepted, the entire Knesset voted either for or against peace, and the evacuation of the settlements was included in the vote on the Camp David accords. So naturally we voted for peace -- both the vast majority of the Likud and also the vast majority of the Alignment. This is why there were more than 100 votes for this decision, including the evacuation of the settlements. Then there was already a Knesset undertaking and an international commitment. Then it was already spilled milk. I mention all these facts to clarify things. This is why I insisted the settlements be evacuated.

[Question] But do you not fear that this precedent of evacuating settlements will, internationally speaking, constitute a precedent that Israel can win peace in return for territories?

[Answer] A precedent for one thing does not automatically constitute a precedent for another, if you will forgive me for correcting the form of your question here. Last night I was interviewed on U.S. television and was asked a similar question, to which I answered: There is no room for comparison. What room is there for a comparison between the Sinai and Judaea and Samaria? In the Sinai we now have a demilitarized zone extending from the international borders of Eretz Yisra'el -- and last night, incidentally, on television, it was mentioned that we are returning to the green line and this is idiocy and absolute lack of information. We have not returned to the green line. We have returned to the international border of Eretz Yisra'el. When we withdrew from the Sinai in 1957 we gave the Gaza Strip to Egypt, and that was when we returned to the green line. But not this time. This time we returned to the international border. So between the international border and the Sinai we now have a demilitarized zone and there is not even one single Egyptian soldier for a distance of 150 km. This is the soul of the peace treaty, which is why we are so careful that no Egyptian military unit be present in that region. One can always photograph and see, because it is a desert area, not a developed area where it would be possible to hide a tank or a cannon in any garage. It is a desert, which is why it gives security to Israel.

As for Judaea and Samaria, just take a look at the map. Would anyone then conceive of drawing parallels between the Sinai and the security problem of Judaea and Samaria? Or with the Golan Heights, which we remember to be an area from which for 19 years the Syrians fired at the valley, into the kibbutzim and moshavim, and when, at the time, a member of Kibbutz Gesher -- who today is a Knesset member and a very lovely lady, an excellent woman -- said: We already coined a new term: children of the air-raid shelters. For months these children used to live in the air-raid shelters on those kibbutzim. Not for a day or two, but full months. So could anyone imagine that we would return to the old situation? There is no room for comparison between the Sinai and Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza District and the Golan Heights. And I have clearly explained this to the American people.

[Question] The question of Yamit still remains, Sir. Why was it necessary to destroy the town and who gave this order?

[Answer] I am under no obligation to reply to the second question. As for the first question, crucial security circumstances demanded this. Period.

[Question] Is it possible to say that it was the Government of Israel that decided this?

[Answer] Do not ask questions, and then I will not have to answer.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, yesterday you wanted the opponents of the withdrawal to be forgiven and no legal measures to be taken against them. But you similarly warned against raising hands against IDF soldiers, but they did. Why then should one not exhaust the legal measures against them?

[Answer] My dear friend, certainly I warned. It was my duty to warn against raising hands. Perhaps, were it not for this warning, far worse things might have happened. But those that did take place were serious enough. We had a unique problem. There will not be another uprooting of settlements, either in Judaea, or in Samaria, in Gaza or the Golan Heights. This was a special occasion and serious things occurred, and serious things were said. Terrible things were said about me, too. I read them and I heard them. I asked a reporter some days ago: Tell me, you spoke on television about the danger to the freedom of the press. Is there another country where there is such freedom of the press that it is possible on national television to say the prime minister's name will go down in history as that of an evil person?

I want to ask you, Mr Schiffer, do I deserve being talked about this way? Have I not served the people of Israel since the early days of my youth? I have been serving it for 54 years now, every day and every night and not under the most favorable conditions. So I ask you: So such things happened, but should one take legal measures? At yesterday's Cabinet session I mentioned what our sages had said in giving another reason why Jerusalem was destroyed: It was because people insisted on going by the rule. One does not always have to exhaust all legal measures. One can also know how for forgive, extend a hand to one another. We have not completed the battle, we will still face many battles, some of them difficult. It is incumbent that we withstand them, and it is better that we stand united in them. They will be over Judaea and Samaria, and then all those faithful to Eretz Yisra'el should stand together, as should all the Zionist parties. That is why I once again suggested that we establish a national unity government. I proposed this to all the Zionist parties. Similarly, I plan to meet with Mr Peres this week. I am not in a position to discuss a national unity government with him because of the Alignment's negative position on this, but I will have something to talk to him about in regard to a certain, extremely important suggestion, which I am interested in having the Knesset adopt almost unanimously.

[Question] You mean....

[Answer, interrupting] At any rate, that the Zionist parties vote for it. If I obtain his consent, I will be very glad.

[Question] You men, Sir, what is termed the Begin-Hammer law.

[Answer] No Begin-Hammer law; there is no such law. I consulted the attorney general and accepted his opinion that no law can be passed on this matter -- namely a ruling that settlements will no longer be removed. On the other hand, he accepted my view that the Cabinet can make a decision on this and bring it to the Knesset for approval, which we would like to do upon the opening of the Knesset's summer session.

[Question] And you wish to obtain the opposition's consent?

[Answer] I wish to have the consent of the opposition, and particularly that of the Alignment, to have it support that resolution in the Knesset. If the Alignment agrees, I will be very happy. If not, I think we have a majority anyway, and the majority speaks for the legislature.

[Question] Mr Begin, senior Cabinet ministers, for example Ministers Sharon and Shamir, repeatedly say Jordan is the Palestinian state. Is this thesis, is the definition acceptable to you?

[Answer] Have you also heard me say that?

[Question] No.

[Answer] My colleagues say it, let them.

[Question] Since the signing of the peace treaty with Egypt, have there been direct or indirect contacts with other Arab countries in an attempt to reach a settlement? After all, you speak a great deal about the desire to reach peace settlements with other countries.

[Answer] Certainly. There was a talk between Moshe Dayan, of blessed memory, and King Husayn. That talk is no longer a secret and Moshe Dayan, who made a very great contribution to the peace process, asked King Husayn, out of intellectual curiosity, and also so that he could give me a report about the reply: Would you agree to what we call territory compromise, that is, a certain area of Judaea and Samaria would be given to you and another area would be under Israeli sovereignty? So King Husayn told him: I will never agree to that. I promise you, King Husayn told Moshe Dayan of blessed memory, that not one Arab ruler will be found to agree to such a thing, under no circumstances. Since then and to this day I have been trying to explain to the Alignment members that their whole idea of what is called territorial compromise is nonsense. It has no foundation in reality. It is altogther impossible to expect that anyone will accept it, why do they repeat it? In the meantime they are just getting the world used to the fact that we are prepared to concede that mountain, from which it is possible to reach Tel Aviv with any Katyusha, and so they are jeopardizing Israel's security and this has no realistic significance.

[Question] You mentioned here the talk held between the late Moshe Dayan and Husayn. After that talk were there any more contacts with other countries, with Arab leaders?

[Answer] No. There have been various contacts, about which, of course, I cannot speak in public, but contacts of the sort I have described there have not taken place since.

[Question] Mr Begin, another very difficult front -- the Lebanese front -- the basic situation there has not changed. The Syrian missiles are still in place and ....

[Answer] It has changed very greatly, Sir. Excuse me if I have interrupted you. We delivered a very great blow to the terrorists on Wednesday, 14 April. We chose three targets, terrorists' bases, and they suffered very serious losses and we destroyed cannons and missiles and other thing.

[Question] But it is impossible to say that their military infrastructure has been destroyed....

[Answer] Permit me to continue. The entire infrastructure.... You cannot destroy any infrastructure in the world by an attack from the air, but they did not reply, they did not do anything. Why? Because they heard, not from us, but from others, such a warning: If you attack the Israelis, your fate will be bitter. Take care and do not use your weapons.

And they did not use them and as I once promised and I kept my promise, this is the 10th month that not even one Katyusha has fallen upon Qiryat Shemona and Nahariyya. People somewhat belittled that announcement, but after 10 months is there any basis for sneering? Even if there is, I am constantly being reminded that I said that either Philip Habib would remove them or we ourselves would. Believe me, today too we can destroy them within a few hours, but we do not want war. If they were to interfere with our aircraft taking pictures we would destroy the missiles. They are not interfering. They are causing certain difficulties, but our air force is overcoming them and we fly every day and take pictures. By the way, according to the agreement between Philip Habib and me, this is not a violation of the agreement on the cessation of hostile activities and I have such a letter from Mr Philip Habib that the flights will continue and they are not considered to be a violation. In fact, we fly every day and the terrorists are sitting quietly, although I would like to tell you simply, how is it put here, as Pushkin wrote, simply: If the terrorists keep the calm, we will keep the calm because we are not interested in any bloodshed whatsoever. If they attack us again, we will deal them a much graver blow than that they received last Wednesday. If they shell settlements and the civilian population in any place whatsoever with artillery or Katyushas, we will certainly consider the possibility of entering Lebanon in order to destroy the aggressive infrastructure of the terrorists.

[Question] You mentioned that the United States hinted to the PLO not to return fire. The question is whether the very fact of those hints does not put the PLO in a new light and give it a political status in the area that it previously lacked....

[Answer] It puts it in a new fog, not a new light. What does that mean? It has been made plain that they are frightened. The United States spoke neither with 'Arafat nor with his accomplices. The United States has its own way, especially Mr Philip Habib, who is like his name [Habib means "nice" in Hebrew]. He is a very nice man, he is a very skilled diplomat, he found a way for himself, he appeals to the Saudi Arabians. As-Sadat told me in Alexandria how the Saudi Arabians had achieved 'Arafat's agreement to stop the hostile actions last July. They gave him $20 million and As-Sadat did not tell me whether they gave 'Arafat that money personally or to his organization. I did not ask, nor does it interest me but they did give him $20 million. Fine, if that is the arrangement between the Saudi Arabians and 'Arafat, should we interfere with it? We of course did not and will not make any agreement with the terrorists, but neither did the United States speak with them. Philip Habib exercised influence on the Syrians, the Lebanese and, mainly, on the Saudi Arabians. Also on the same night of 15 April after the wonderful action by our air force against those terrorist bases, the United States used all its means, and all its modern technology to influence the terrorists: Do not dare to attack the Israelis. If you do so, your fate will be bitter, and it worked. My dear friend, remember what we were 40 years ago and how today those SOB's, excuse me for that term, fear an Israeli blow, so you will understand what a change has occured in the status of the Hebrew nation.

[Question] Is it true, Sir, that you approved a limited action, limited in its scope, by the air force, among other things because you did not have a national consensus here at home for a comprehensive war against....

[Answer] No such thing, we have never made a decision for comprehensive war. That was a false story by whoever circulated it and it created hysteria among certain circles. As I informed the U.S. ambassador, so I am informing you, the Cabinet has never made a decision that we would invade Lebanon. We must be ready for any eventuality, but first of all a decision must be made and so I have to correct you: I do not approve, there is a Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs and there is a Cabinet. Sometimes the Cabinet decides on campaigns, sometimes the ministerial committee with the authorization of the Cabinet decides. No one man decides here. The defense minister, the foreign minister, the Ministerial Committee for Security Affairs which has 11 members -- a majority in the Cabinet decides.

[Question] And the position of the opposition leaders did not have any effect on the Cabinet decision?

[Answer] Not even a molecule [last word in English]. It could not have had any influence, for that position had no basis. I have what the English call an open mind [last two words in English], I am also prepared to listen to a rival, why should I not listen to Mr Peres and Mr Rabin, I respect them both, but there were no grounds for those claims by them. Mr Mordekhay Gur, I must say, caused me bitter disappointment. I am very fond of him, but how he came out with what sort of hysteria about war, comprehensive war, that we are already going to war, there is going to be a catastrophe, there was no such thing. He is a friend of mine and he can pick up the telephone and ask me, he can also come to me, I will speak with him any time, and ask. Once he came to me in connection with the atomic reactor in Iraq and he told me that everyone was saying that we were going to bomb that atomic reactor. Really, it was because of those stories that we postponed the action to another day, because it was a question of human lives and now, too, he could have come and I would have given him all the information.

Why on earth did he come out the way he did: he even called himself the former chief of staff. I protest the use of former titles. He is also a Knesset member, all honor to him, why should he rely on the fact that he was once chief of staff? There is always only one chief of staff. There are no chiefs of staff. What did Moshe Sneh once say, he was very clever, blessed be his memory. He was the head of the national command headquarters of the Haganah. In brief, the head of the national command headquarters was called by the Haganah members the "Rama" and Sneh used to say, there is only one "Ramah" because [joke indistinct because of laughter] and it is on this basis that I want to say, there is also only one chief of staff, even without him being called "Ramah." Only one, the one in office is the chief of staff. He is the army's chief commander and all those who were and are citizens of Israel in my opinion have no moral justification to use their former title. I permit myself to say before the nation and with all honor that former officials do not make decisions. There are people who are appointed to be in charge of the affairs and they make the decisions. I hope that Mota Gur will hear me and he can call me, he can examine matters with me. Always, in any situation, I will not conceal anything from him. I will rely on him. But he should not create such a situation of general hysteria -- that a war is already about to break out. No such thing. He should not even hint it.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, with your permission, perhaps a few questions on domestic issues and a few questions on personal issues. You are calling for the establishment of a national unity government, a national unity government the basis of which, of course, is the autonomy plan and the framework agreements signed at Camp David, but you are undoubtedly aware of the fact that a national unity government also has to allocate ministerial portfolios. Are you prepared to say which portfolios you are ready to offer the Labor Party in the framework of a national unity government? Are you prepared to offer the foreign affairs and defense portfolios?

[Answer] I am prepared to offer important portfolios. That is my answer and that is sufficient and I have proof of this: The NRP sat in a coalition with the Alignment or with MAPAI for nearly 30 years. What did the NRP receive? Crumbs. The NRP was always in the government, it has never been in power as long as the Likud did not make up a government. Since then, an NRP member has had the Ministry of Education. Did the MAPAI, the Alignment, ever conceive of giving the Ministry of Education to anyone other than a member of the Alignment? Or to an NRP member? The minister of the interior, the Lord be praised, is also the minister of police, he is also in charge of the autonomy negotiations. Ask him what his opinion is about his incorporation into responsibility in the government led by the Likud. Take TAMI; we gave TAMI, with its three seats, very important portfolios such as, for example, labor and welfare, that is a special portfolio today, but in fact it is two ministries; today it is together, and absorption and immigration, too -- and the last portfolio was taken from David Levi and he regretted it very much and I regret his regrets, of course.

So here you are, our proof is that we know how to respect partners. You can ask me about this or that detail. How can I reply? First of all, negotiations must be conducted about the balance.

Why did I say that a national unity government should be established? Because of the international situation. Not that I am afraid. Do you remember what has been said over the last few weeks? That Begin should evacuate the Yamit District and afterward, we will speak with him. We evacuated the Yamit District, without the Alignment, with all respect to the Alignment's 48 Knesset seats. They thought that blood would be shed. There were those among them who expected [tzipu] blood. No blood was shed. We evacuated the Yamit District without the Alignment.

Well, are you already prepared to speak? So I am inviting them to speak. About what? First of all, a national unity government should be established. That is my view; this is the time. Why do I claim it is possible to establish a national unity government? Since then, Mr Peres has announced, from the Knesset podium, that his party supports the autonomy plan. You support the autonomy plan, the plan you turned down for many years, you sneered at it, you jeered at it, you belittled it, now you support it? So, we can stand together for at least 5 years or more, and after that, after the end of the transition period I assume there will be a parting of the ways.

The Alignment will say: We are in favor of territorial compromise, a section of Judaea and Samaria must be given to what they call a Jordanian-Palestinian state. We will say: We want Israeli sovereignty over Judaea and Samaria and autonomy for the Arab inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. Autonomy is a fine idea, humanitarian, good and beneficial. And this idea must be maintained. But then there will be a parting of the ways. In the meantime, we will sit together and lead the nation of Israel together for almost 6 years. That is a very long time. It could be twice the time that the national unity government of 1967-70 existed. Why not do that? And so, I am inviting the members of the Alignment or the Labor Party; I am not interested in a split of the Alignment. I also want MAPAM to be in our national unity government. They just do not have to threaten us, to deter us from establishing a national unity government and if all the Alignment members enter, 48, we are also 48, they will have 18 ministers, we will have 18 ministers. Equality.

[Question] If that idea of a national unity government does not work out, would you prefer the current situation of a government which sometimes commands a draw government [memshelet tegu]?

[Answer] It is not sometimes a draw government. Once there was a tie vote. There is no need to exaggerate; once and once only. I, as you know, am in favor of new elections because....

[Question] When?

[Answer] Let us assume, at the end of this year, at the beginning of next year, it depends -- after all, that requires a Knesset majority.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, there is one difficult matter on which, for some reason, we have not heard your reaction and that is the matter of the comments made after Abu-Hatzera's conviction. The president of the state reacted, other public figures reacted but the prime minister of Israel did not see fit to react to the comemnts that, in fact, called for ethnic incitement.

[Answer] When I speak, the media take issue with me on the content of my words. When I am silent then you attack me, why am I silent? I did react, but my reaction has not yet reached the public.

Those comments were very grave. I think they were said in anger. Great regret should be expressed. Those comments should be condemned. That was religious incitement in the full meaning of the term.

It has no place here. We are one nation. I think that is a passing phenomenon and all those who did this, or noted this, or threatened, or incited now regret their words themselves. I know that we are one nation. This generation will be the last generation of ethnic divisions and the generation of my children will already be a generation of perfect unification of the nation. Do you know why? Particularly thanks to love. When I see the young couples -- they are generally of European origin and Asian and African origin, and their children are the most beautiful children in Israel -- then I know that we will be one nation with complete confidence and those couples are increasing.

This unification will come about because of education, too. I will tell you a story. I was in the hospital and several excellent doctors cured me. The doctor who found the main problem was of Moroccan origin; a genius. He will be a professor, I have no doubt of it. He was only 32 or 33 years old. He is of North African origin. How happy I was to see such a doctor. And there are several more. In the meantime, they have become educated, they studied, they went to high schools and universities. People do not notice that we are a different nation than what we were in the days of the transit camps [ma'abarot]. And this is also how it will be in the future. And neither do we have to be too ashamed of that. They said grave things out of anger, at a time of anger and that, too, will be forgotten and we will be one nation.

[Question] There was some sort of a hint in your answer about your relations with the media and my question is, how do you explain the fact that the prime minister's relations today with the media and also with the broadcasting authority result in constant clashes. How do you explain that?

[Answer] Ask the media. Why are you asking me? Tell me, my friend, is there a situation in any democratic country in which there are electronic media, a national monopoly, in which they attack in such a way a government, a Cabinet member, a prime minister, every night, every evening. I will give you an example. I hear the program "My Beloved Land." It ought to be devoted to Eretz Yisra'el. All of a sudden the commentator stops the story -- I cannot remember now what he was speaking about -- but he said: The prime minister said that he watches the "Dallas" program. Is that your cultural level, Mr Prime Minister? Without any connection with the topic....

[Question] Sir, are you, since the, trying to turn the broadcasting authority into an anti....

[Answer] I am not turning it into anything, let me finish the sentence first. It is interesting how impatient you are. You are allowed to say everything, but it is forbidden to answer. I am answering your questions. Let me finish.

So, I asked, why, for heavens' sake, why ask that question? Is he the one to measure my cultural level? Let us say that I enjoy watching "Dallas." What is wrong with that? Someone said that for a whole hour I am abandoning the security of Israel. When I watch "Dallas", I have one telephone at my right hand and a military telephone at my left hand. There are calls every minute, every minute I am interrupted. Every minute is of course an exaggeration, but from time to time they ring. So, someone dared to say that I am abandoning Israel's security at that time. Nonsense. Outrageous. That is untrue and groundless.

I will give you another example now. I wrote a letter to the chief of staff after the evacuation of the Yamit District and in that letter there two sentences. Let me read it to you: Dear Raful, blessed is the top commander at whose orders stands such an army to defend the nation and its children, the homeland and its territories. That was the first sentence. Second sentence: Blessed is the nation that appoints such a commander as you to command its army.

All the media quoted the first sentence and omitted the second. How much time did the second sentence take? Two seconds? Five seconds? With my own ears last night I heard my letter read on television but only the first sentence. Why could the media not publicize the sentence, "Blessed is the nation that appoints such a commander as you to command its army." Because they were good words about Raful, about the chief of staff, about the commander of our army? After all, he is not a politician. He has also said that when he leaves the army he will not boast of having been the previous chief of staff, he will be a carpenter and a field worker in Tel 'Adashim, his moshav. No, they did not publicize that second sentence.

So why are you surprised? Journalists, not all journalists, certain journalists have such a habit. They are allowed to attack, to slander and to criticize. If you give any reply whatsoever, you are attacking freedom of speech. This is a scandal. If you can criticize the prime minister, is the prime minister forbidden to reply? I know how to write an article too. So am I forbidden to write an article criticizing HA'ARETZ for the libelous words it writes? After all, I fill entire columns of the HA'ARETZ paper but I do not receive any fees. If they were to pay for those columns they write about me, I would already be almost a second Rothschild. But they do not pay a penny and every day I read entire columns -- an editorial, an article to the left, an article underneath, an article above and another page -- so am I forbidden to react? What sort of freedom of speech is there here?

I admit, Mr Shoqen [editor in chief of MA'ARIV] has freedom of speech just as I do. But I will not accept that Mr Shoqen or Mr Schnitzer or Dr Rozenblum or you, Mr Schiffer have a monoply on freedom of speech. There is no such thing, that is not freedom of speech. That is limiting freedom of speech, eliminating freedom of speech. I am also a citizen and I also have freedom of speech.

[Question] Mr Prime Minister, toward the end of the interview I would like to return to how we began it. After the Entebbe campaign, you said in the Knesset that the entire government bears the responsibility but the prime minister bears a responsibility that is just a little bit greater.

[Answer] The prime minister has a little bit more responsibility, that is what I said then.

[Question] And I want to ask you about your responsibility, about your isolation as the one who makes decisions, particularly over the last few weeks or months, if you are prepared to let us in on some of your feelings.

[Answer] First of all, I confirm that the prime minister, and I also serve in the post, bears just a little bit more responsibility. Generally, of course, a prime minister in a democratic country with a parliamentary system is what is called the first among equals. When Levi Eshkol, of blessed memory, was my prime minister, I interpreted that saying in this way: The prime minister should treat his colleagues as equals, and they should treat him as the first, but I maintain the first part of that sentence. As for the second party, there have been a variety of actions. Sometimes my colleagues in the Cabinet kept that second part and sometimes they did not. I do not deny it of course; the prime minister also has to provide initiative. I certainly initiated the decision about the application of Israeli law and administration to the Golan Heights and I also initiated the ideas about the crisis between Egypt and Israel. Sometimes my colleagues initiate ideas and sometimes I support them enthusiastically, sometimes I do not accept them. Sometimes I am in the majority, sometimes in the minority. Over the last few weeks I have twice been in the minority in the Cabinet. The majority voted against my opinion. I accepted the judgment. That is the nature of a democratic, parliamentary government. The last few weeks have been difficult, not so much because of the external crisis, but because of those threats of suicide. I do not wish you such an experience, not by day and not by night.

Thank the Lord, we have gotten through that too. No blood was shed. We kept our commitment. There were many sacrifices. We made them for the sake of peace. I do not want any more bereavement, any more orphans in Israel, no more wars, no more bloodshed. My desire -- I pray on the eve of Independence Day that this will be and I want, with the Lord's help, in another year, when the State of Israel celebrates 35 years of establishment, if we all are lucky enough to reach that, we will see our army marching through the streets of Jerusalem, on the heights, as a symbol of national renewal, the grand power the Jewish people has established in order to defend its life, its independence, its homeland, its honor. A happy holiday to all the citizens of Israel and all the members of the Jewish people in all its diaspora.

Labor Party Reacts

TA282028 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The Labor Party has said the prime minister's remarks in the interview to Qol Yisra'el -- that there were those in the Alignment who expected [tzipu] to see blood in Yamit during its evacuation -- were a blood libel. The party's reactions team called upon Mr Begin to have the courage to retract those libelous words, as the announcement phrased it, without delay.

Begin Rejects Criticism

TA290541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The prime minister's office this morning reports that Labor Party leaders were hysterical in demanding that Mr Begin retract his remarks yesterday in an interview with the Voice of Israel. The prime minister's office says the Alignment leaders are, as is known, experts in blood libels. However, this time they are wrong because the prime minister did not accuse anybody of any crime.

'SENIOR' OFFICIALS DENY REPORTS ON AUTONOMY TALKS

TA282031 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Prime Minister Begin says Israel wants autonomy talks to be held in Jerusalem. The prime minister made this statement in an interview with the Voice of Israel in Hebrew.

Our political affairs reporter, Alan Ben-'Ami, says Israeli officials, however, are not clear on whether or not the next round must first take place in Jerusalem, or whether Jerusalem would have to be one of the venues for future talks. Until now, autonomy negotiations in Israel have been held in Tel Aviv or Herzliyya, and Egypt remains reluctant to hold talks in Jerusalem.

Our reporter says discussions about a meeting in Jerusalem are still going on and both senior Israeli and U.S. officials tonight denied newspaper reports that the next round of autonomy negotiations will be held in Washington in mid-May. Neither a date nor a venue have yet been set, officials told our reporter.

UK QUERIES ENVOY ON ARMS SALES TO ARGENTINA

TA281220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The Israeli ambassador to Britain has been summoned to the Foreign Office in London and asked whether Israel has supplied helicopter missiles to Argentina since the invasion of the Falkland Islands.

At the same time, the British ambassador to Israel came to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem to discuss the same matter. The answers given by Israeli representatives have not been made public.

Officials React

TA282059 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Hanan Bar-On, the acting Foreign Ministry director general, and the director of the European department, Yohanan Meroz, have told British Ambassador Patrick Moberley they were amazed at the announcement by the London Foreign Office on the meeting held yesterday with the Israeli ambassador. This was a meeting in which -- so it was reported -- the ambassador was asked whether Israel had supplied Argentina with aircraft or any other military equipment. The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says the very publication of the meeting and the publication of the statement by the Foreign Office in London make it easier for unfounded rumors on Israel's position in the Falkland Islands crisis to spread. The reports published in London are distorted, misrepresent the real picture, and do not reflect Israel's true policy.

SECURITY OFFICIALS ON REASONS FOR W. BANK VIOLENCE

TA281333 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1215 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Security officials attribute the agitation in the territories to the withdrawal from the Sinai and to Independence Day. Our correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay reports the terrorist organizations in Beirut at the beginning of the week called for a general strike in the territories to protest the completion [hashlamat] of the Camp David accords. They also called for demonstrations in the territories against these accords. Security officials reported that business and economic life in the territories are continuing without incident.

DEMONSTRATORS, SECURITY FORCES CLASH IN NABULUS

TA282025 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] There were violent clashes in various Judaea and Samaria towns today involving demonstrators and security forces. An IDF soldier was wounded in Nabulus in the course of demonstrations in the city center. The demonstrators attacked an IDF patrol and security forces opened fire in order to disperse them. Fourteen demonstrators were detained and some of them were hurt by the IDF soldiers' shots. Our correspondent Rafiq Halabi notes these were the most serious demonstrations in Nabulus in the last few months. A curfew was imposed on the old city of Nabulus.

There were also demonstrations in Ramallah and Bethlehem. During the dispersal, a border policeman and seven demonstrators were injured. There were more violent demonstrations in the Jabalyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. As they were being dispersed, seven demonstrators were hurt.

ONE KILLED, TWO INJURED IN HALHUL INCIDENT

TA290912 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] One person was killed and two were injured in Halhul near Hebron after they pelted an IDF foot patrol with stones. A correspondent of the Voice of Israel Arabic service, Rif'at Kadur, reports that security forces used tear gas to disperse the demonstration and fired shots into the air. When the youths refused to disperse, security forces aimed fire at the legs of the demonstrators, injuring three persons, one of whom died on the way to a hospital. Our correspondent, Pinhas 'Inbari, reports two demonstrators were injured in Nabulus after attacking IDF soldiers with stones and pieces of metal. The windows of an Israeli car were also smashed.

SWEDISH SOCIALISTS CANCEL INVITATION TO LABOR

TA280744 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] In a surprise move the Swedish Social Democratic Party canceled an invitation to the Labor Party to take part in a May Day demonstration in Stockholm. Swedish radio has reported that Shim'on Peres said in reaction to the cancellation that it was a heavy blow to the Labor Party and to Israel. Our correspondent in Scandinavia, Eliyahu Zehavi, reports that at the end of last week the Swedish Social Democratic Party sent an urgent telegram to Peres asking him to postpone his visit because of what is called the situation in Israel. However, the party secretary Sven Anderson said that actually the telegram was sent out of two considerations: an internal party debate following the bombing in Lebanon and fear that representatives of the Sandinistas from Nicaragua and PLO members, who also were invited to participate in the May Day demonstration, would plan an action [yitnaklu] against the Israeli representative. Anderson expressed the hope that Peres would understand these motives and noted that the cancellation of the invitation should not be regarded as an unfriendly step. He said he would contact Peres today to fix an alternative date for a visit. The affair was at the center of news programs on Swedish Radio this morning. In a telegram, which was cited, Peres said it was clear that a delegation from his party would not come if it was unwanted. His spokesman, Yisra'el Gat, said the decision to cancel the invitation was received in Israel with shock and the Labor Party sees in it a first step toward a boycott of Israel.

Peres Comments

TA281053 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres sent a sharp telegram to the chairman of the Swedish Social Democratic Party, Olof Palme, in which he wrote that the Labor Party was deeply hurt by the cancellation of the invitation to a delegation from the party to take part in a May Day demonstration in Stockholm. Peres mentions that friendly relations have existed between the two parties for 80 years, since the days of Po'aley Tzi'on. He also expressed surprise that the invitation was canceled after Israel had taken such great and painful steps for the sake of peace, chief among them being the withdrawal from the Sinai.

The head of the foreign relations department, Yisra'el Gat, told our correspondent Asher Shwartz that in the cancellation announcement the Swedish party explained that because of situation in the Middle East there is liable to be an uneasy atmosphere from the point of view of security and the Israeli delegation.

Knesset Member Aharon Nahmias, of the Labor Party, urged Shim'on Peres to convene the party's Executive to discuss the functions of the foreign relations department.

Our correspondent in Scandinavia, Eliyahu Zehavi, notes that a delegation from the Histadrut is visitng now in Sweden following an invitation by the professional unions. When these unions learned of the cancellation of the invitation to the Labor Party, they sent another telegram to the Histadrut stressing that their invitation to it still stood. Our correspondent reports that in the leadership of the Swedish Social Democratic Party there is dissatisfaction over the decision by the party's leader, Olof Palme, to cancel the invitation. Central party figures said they were not consulted.

BRIEFS

POPULATION DATA -- Israel's population is estimated at 4,010,000. About 3,335,000 persons are Jewish and 675,000 are not Jewish. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Israel's population has grown by 850,000 people during the last decade: 650,000 are Jewish and 200,000 are not Jewish. [Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Apr 82 p 1 TA]

ALGERIA

FOREIGN MINISTER SET TO VISIT IRAN 2-7 MAY

LD281634 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Algiers, 28 Apr (APS) -- Mohamed Ben Yahia, minister of foreign affairs and member of the FLN Political Bureau, will pay an official visit to Iran 2-7 May at the invitation of 'Ali Akbar Velayati, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI ADDRESSES BASIC CONGRESSES 28 APRIL

LD282222 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Within the framework of encouraging the popular masses to exercise authority, the leader of the revolution spoke this evening on television and radio to the masses of the people's basic congresses in central Tripoli and central Al-Fatih. The leader stressed that the seriousness of debate in the congresses is an indication of the level reached in the experiment of people's authority toward its final consolidation. The seriousness of the debate indicates the extent of the feeling of responsibility of the masses with regard to the authority which they have, in effect, begun to exercise.

The leader stressed that the jamahiriyah's economic position is not difficult at all despite the U.S. blockade -- supported by the Saudi reactionary conspiracy which has flooded the world market with huge quantities of gasoline in its efforts, within the scope of the U.S. conspiracy, to weaken the economic position of other petroleum countries that have rejected the U.S. domineering attitude.

The leader affirmed that we know how to make difficult decisions in difficult circumstances. If those circumstances arise, we will make the necessary decision, however severe, to confront and defeat the enemies' conspiracies because the basis of all our decisions is that our integrity should remain safeguarded and our heads held high. The leader stressed that our petroleum wealth is bolstered every day with new discoveries that will have definite roles in bolstering our economic steadfastness and in realizing our position of resistance to the enemies' conspiracies.

The basic people's congresses continue their meetings of the first ordinary session for this year.

JALLUD COMMENTS ON AFRICAN ECONOMIC SITUATION

LD281900 Tripoli JANA in English 1830 GMT 28 Apr 82

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Apr (JANA) -- Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud has stressed that Africa's economic and social problems could only be solved by the Africans and through African administration. He said the African Continent "is capable through cooperation and sincere determination, of solving these problems and most properly deploying its resources in realising transformations serving African man and causes."

This came in a speech at the African planning and economy ministers' meeting held here yesterday. Staff Major Jallud called on African countries to confront imperialists schemes aimed at dominating and robbing their resources.

He stressed: "Imperialism will again try to halt development of African countries' independence from political independence to economic social and cultural independence. The advanced countries with imperialist tendency have stood against developing peoples' aspirations.

He added: "Despite the emergency of these stands characterised by selfish interests and old policies, this should not prevent the developing and African countries from forcefully and determinedly continuing the development of their political independence."

He said: "The advanced industrial countries have placed all types of obstacles and rejected all attempts to create a just world economic order... these countries want to keep the backward world forever backward and to confine independence in Africa to raising a flag and having a president. They do not want independence to acquire its political, economic, cultural and social meaning.

He went on: "These countries want us to remain as raw-material-exporting countries. While they continue to drain our resources at cheapest of prices and to make our countries consumer markets for their products... the advanced industrial countries are not serious about establishing a just world economic order, which will allow the advanced countries to continue their progress while also letting the backward world to overcome its backwardness and start the stage of development." [as received]

He affirmed: "The Western imperialist countries are not serious about transferring technology to Third World and African countries." He noted that the prevailing money system was set by the imperialist states to serve their imperialist policy."

Staff Major Jallud stressed the necessity to change current economic and monetary practices, establish a new just economic order, end technological monopoly, realise a just distribution of the monetary liquidity, find initiatives for trade exchange between developing and industrial countries.

America and the rest of industrial countries are dominating finance establishments and loans, and the loans of the World Bank which are granted to developing countries on political, not economic basis. Countries which America and West Europe approve of are granted these loans. Others which are independent of U.S. hegemony, refuse U.S. bases and its new colonialism do not benefit from these loans.

He then stressed the necessity of Africa's and Third World countries' developing and promoting their economy and exploiting their wealth. These should also get ready for a struggle to realise these important objectives, especially prepare themselves to fight imperialist countries. He then discussed U.S. imperialist policies and [word indistinct] he told participants that the world is facing [word indistinct] reactionary and right wing administration led by Reagan, Haig and Weinberger, and stressed that it is opposed to all democratic forces whether in America, the West or the rest of the world. This administration, he said, is back to the feudal system, adopts its terrorist repressive methods and is the enemy of every progressive sign of peoples' aspirations.

U.S. administration is waging a war on small peoples and Africa. It has shown its hostility towards Africa by resuming relations with the racist South African regime and lifting economic sanctions on its regime. At the same time it is using South African racists to aggress African people.

Staff Major Jallud added: "The current terrorist aggression backed by America, on Angola and Mozambique will move on to Zambia, Libya, Chad and Congo. This most reactionary and feudal minded American administration blatently backs two racist regimes, the South African racist regime and the barbaric racist one in Palestine. It also endeavors to make each of these regimes a special gendarme after it lost its other gendarme: the shah of Iran."

He affirmed: "The American administration led by Reagan daily challenged African sentiments ever since it came to power. It inaugurated its rule by strengthening cooperation with the racist South African regime and undermining international decisions concerning independence of South-West Africa. It is now waging an economic war against and creating social and economic problems for Third World countries."

He stressed: "The American administration is waging a war against small peoples and against [word indistinct]. This reactionary administration wants to create economic chaos in the world and believes it will be immune from such [word indistinct] go but President Reagan now finds himself being burnt with the fire he himself kindled. It is expected that American balance of payment deficit would reach 125 billion dollars and unemployment 10 million people."

Staff Major Jallud exposed the ugliest of American administration policy. He said: "This administration does not only want to starve and destroy African and Third World peoples but also wants its closest allies in Western Europe to be totally subservient to it."

He warned that American administration policy "is threatening to kindle a third world war and social and political chaos within the three years remaining for this administration's term of office. He said: "This is the most dangerous period the world is going through since World War II.

Before the rise of the Great Al Fateh Revolution, industrial countries used to set the price of raw materials, manufacture, search for and sell them, and developing countries did not have a say in these deals. Al Fateh Revoluion has led the revolution of countries rich in raw materials and oil, corrected the existing prices and enabled these countries to master their wealth, production and prices. This administration and the rest of capitalist countries opposed to all rights want to thwart these victories through political decisions, force and very low prices for raw materials. Some countries' income has thus suffered serious set backs at a time when price of manufactured goods in capitalist countries is increasing by 18 to 20 per cent."

Concluding his speech, Staff Major Jallud re-affirmed the necessity to change the current world economic order calling upon Third World peoples to struggle to transform it in order to benefit from a just monetary distribution.

COOPERATION DISCUSSED WITH TUNISIAN MINISTER

LD281622 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Excerpts] The secretary of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison met at noon today with Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi. They discussed consolidation of bilateral cooperation within the framework of economic unity. They also discussed improving relations to new levels of cooperation and implementing the agreements signed when the leader of the revolution visited Tunisia.

The Tunisian minister arrived in Tripoli this morning. He explained in a statement to JANA that his visit comes within the framework of liaison and consultation, the foundations of which were laid down by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi and President Bourguiba. This visit, he said, will enable us to raise bilateral relations to the level of their historic (?links) and the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples for more progress and true solidarity.

COMMENTARY ON 'FALSE CELEBRATIONS' OVER SINAI

LD281416 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Any act that a regime would like to regard as a victory cannot be regarded as such just because this regime issued a republican or royalist decree hailing the action as a victory. Official celebrations of this matter called a victory. despite the spotlights and arranged propaganda campaigns, are nevertheless colorless. It isn't difficult at all to detect a sense of shame dominating all those who hold the celebration because they are ordered by the ruler to display a so-called joy on the occasion which the regime regards as a victory.

A slave cannot become victorious simply by breaking only one of the many fetters around his wrist. This slave would, however, become victorious if he broke all the chains, corporal and moral, and then became his own master. A prisoner doesn't become a free man by being transferred from solitary confinement to an air-conditioned room inside the prison. He becomes truly free when he comes out to breathe the fresh air over the soil of his homeland.

Nations do not feel that what they are celebrating is a victory when, in fact, it is not a real victory. Oppressed nations feel victorious only when they overcome their weakness and become strong nations. If their sovereignty is not complete, they feel victory only when they complete their sovereignty in actual fact. And when they have an occupied soil, they feel victory only when they recover this land and impose their own total sovereignty over it.

If a regime in the age of falsehood and lies and fabrications comes forward to claim in front of a nation that it has realized a victory for this nation, the nation in question knows that what has been achieved is the very pinnacle of defeat. A regime like this cannot make its lie stick or make the nation dance for joy because in living nations there are spots of awareness and centers of feelings. People have brains which evaluate actions, differentiate between right and wrong and know the difference between victories and defeats.

The war between the Arab nation and the Zionist enemy is a war of two poles apart for they will never meet, will never understand each other or have any possibility of coexistence on Arab soil. The struggle is between Arab nationalism and those Zionist invaders brought by imperialism from various countries of the world into Palestine and established for them on this soil a racist entity artificial and alien to the area.

The ruler has the power to issue a republican or a royal decree in which he tells people to consider white as black and black as white. Through his radios, he also can issue republican or royal decrees telling people to praise the United States and accept coexistence with the Zionists because in the opinion of the rulers this is the fate of the Arabs, because their enemy, as these rulers are claiming, is more powerful and possesses more deadly weapons. The ruling regime possesses the power to issue republican or royal decrees ordering people to treat disgrace and defeat as victory and pride, but since when has the glorious history of nations been compiled by the decrees of dictatorial regimes? And since when have acts been regarded as victories just because the ruling regime wants them to carry this description? And since when have honorable deeds been the creation of hired propaganda organs and suspect and mercenary pens?

The Zionist enemy occupies an Arab land and no Arab action can be regarded as a true victory of the Arab nation unless this action is the liberation of all occupied Arab soil and first of all the soil which was occupied in 1948.

On this basis, the return of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip or any other Arab soil to the Arab nation while our soil, which the invaders nowadays call the land of Israel, remains under occupation will never be a victory for us but in actual fact a victory for the Zionist enemy who wants to obtain Arab recognition of his artificial entity to serve as a legal preparation for spreading out later on to the Euphrates in the east and the Nile in the west.

What is the meaning of the enemy's statement that if he felt that the Arabs are not abiding by his conditions, he will swoop down on them and seize their land? What does this mean? It means that all treaties which the ruling regime concluded with the enemy are not the means to peace and stability in the area, and that the Camp David accords, which they claim are a ground for peace, are in actual fact a time bomb which threatens to explode at any moment. Anything the Arabs might receive, regardless of its high or low value, is not worthwhile if its price is recognizing the Zionist enemy, liquidating the Palestinian issue and accepting a secondary role in the area while leaving the basic role and substantial weight in the region to a force alien to the area, Zionism. This force addresses the world as one who gives the orders and possesses might and sway over the Arab area, acting on the basis that the Arabs are a group of lower creatures whose extermination cannot be regarded even as a violation of the right of man or the sanctity of the human being.

The proper, just and lasting solution to the conflict in the area is that occupied Arab soil should return in full to its Arab owners. This solution will be imposed by force no matter how long it takes to do so. The Zionist invaders will return to their homelands from which they came in the same way the French invaders returned from Algeria to France after about 130 years of colonization and the same way the Italian invaders returned from Libya to Italy after scores of years of tyranical fascist colonization. In Palestine, there will then be an Arab state consisting of all its sons who belong to Arab nationalism irrespective of their faiths. Only in this situation will celebrations be regarded as victory celebrations, but in any other situations all celebrations are false, untrue and cheap.

MOROCCO

TOURISTS CITE DEMONSTRATIONS IN WESTERN ALGERIA

LD281820 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Oujdah, 28 Apr (MAP) -- Tourists from Arab Maghreb countries arriving from Algeria say western Algeria in the last few days has witnessed noisy demonstrations combined with looting and the deaths of a number of citizens.

A large number of students in Algiers, Oran and Tlemcen (?refused to attend) school, protesting a government project that affects second year students in secondary schools [words indistinct].

Rumors circulated among students to the effect that only five percent of the candidates for the baccalaureate degree will pass. This has caused great resentment and protest among Algerian students. These reports, confirmed by tourists who visited those towns, say a religious movement also has joined the student demonstrations.

Neighboring towns -- particularly Mustaganem and Arzew -- (?witnessed) similar events on 23-24 April.

The main street in Oran was the scene of violent demonstrations. Police arrested hundreds of demonstrators and two cinemas and one coffeeshop were looted. The same sources reported car vandalism. Police used tear gas and a large number of policemen intervened to break up the demonstrations.

BULGARIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ARRIVES

LD221538 Rabat MAP in English 1209 GMT 22 Apr 82

[Text] Casablanca, 22 Apr (MAP) -- Bulgarian Minister of Telecommunications Mr Pando Vanchev arrived here late Tuesday on a few-day work visit in Morocco at the invitation of the Moroccan Instiqlal Party. In a statement to the press, the Bulgarian minister said that his visit will allow him to convey on behalf of the Bulgarian Government and people his salutations of friendship to the Moroccan Government and people.

BRIEFS

HEALTH TALKS WITH SOVIETS -- Rabat, 28 Apr (MAP) -- Dr Vahal Rahhali, Moroccan minister of public health, received here Tuesday, Mr Oleg Shchepine, Soviet vice-minister of health who was accompanied by Soviet Ambassador to Rabat M. Yevgeniy Nersesov. Talks focused on bilateral cooperation in the fields of health and on ways to further consolidate it. On this line, he tackled the issue of establishing a bomb [as received] of cobalt in Taza (Eastern Morocco) to avoid the displacement of sick people affected by cancer. Exchange of experts between the two countries, the organization of conferences as well as the dispatching of Soviet medical training teams to Morocco and the control of medicine were also evoked during the meeting. [Text] [Rabat MAP in English 1220 GMT 28 Apr 82 LD]

SUDAN

NUMAYRI CONGRATULATES EGYPT ON SINAI RETURN

TV Address

NC251707 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1538 GMT 25 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA) -- Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri addressed the following message to the sons of the Nile valley in the television program "The Egyptians," to be broadcast this evening.

In the holy Koran, God Almighty said: But if the enemy inclines toward peace, do though incline toward peace and trust in God for he is the one that heareth and knoweth. Should they intend to deceive thee, verily God sufficeth thee: He it is that hath strengthened thee with his aid and with the believers.

Brother citizens and sons of the Nile valley: I greet you and in your name I greet our brothers, the sons of Egypt on the day of victory and entrenching Egyptian sovereignty over Egyptian territory. I greet you on the day when the flag of Egypt, of Arabism was hoisted over the Sinai, confirming Egypt's complete sovereignty over this part of the great Arab homeland and the beloved African homeland.

The return of the Sinai to its rightful people is an epitome of adherence to the rights, land and soil. The restoration of right and the return of the Egyptian, Arab and African sovereignty over the Sinai is a triumph for all the inherited Arab values and the usurped African rights.

It has been proved to the whole world today that the Arab nation has never been an advocate of war and destruction. This quality has been entrenched in the conscience of this nation through its adherence to the teachings and values of Islam, that call for war only against the party which starts war, terrorism and aggression on land and honor. Our battles will not stop before the restoration of all our rights. Now is the time for solidarity and cohesion among the sons of the Arab nation and between the Arab nation and the African nation.

Our Arab nation has emphasized that it supports peace as long as it leads to the restoration of all our usurped rights. This nation also has asserted to the entire world that it will confront aggression with the hardest blows if the enemy follows a method of encroachment, arrogance and conceit. Our Arab nation emphasized this established fact during the oppressive tipartite aggression in the mid-50's and during the crossing [of the Suez Canal] battles in the early 70's. Now the Arab nation tells the enemy that the usurped land will not remain so even if it were to be drenched with blood and martyrs.

Peace and terrorism and the killing of innocent people will not ensure for the enemy his stay on our pure land. The sons of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza sector now tell the Zionist enemy that the Arab nation will not surrender its usurped rights. All of us are ready for martyrdom to restore the usurped Arab rights. The sons of Palestine have been living a ife of suffering and deprivation to establish their state. They have offered and are offering martyrs to this noble goal. This is the most honest of battles. The enemy still directs his guns at the innocent people in the West Bank and Gaza sector. Despite this state of affairs, certain Arab leaders still face the situation with accusations and recriminations.

Brothers, the time of trading with the issue has gone and the issue will not be resolved by vilifications and vituperations. Territory can be recovered only by unity of stand and actual solidarity. An usurped right can be regained only by consciously advancing toward the arena the enemy is preparing for confrontation. Should they incline toward peace,we would traverse the path of peace. We have confirmed this fact by the return of the Sinai. But should they choose an oppressive war, then we will go to a war in which we will offer the soul and everything precious so that Palestine and the Golan will again be pure Arab.

The dispersion and division the Arab nation is experiencing have given the enemy the opportunity to be haughty. The enemy has been seeing in us the weakness, the degradation and the dissipation befallen the Arab nation. However long this dispersion lasts, we must put an end to it and begin today to unite the ranks and stands, to strengthen the will and to dedicate all Arab capabilities to serving the most urgent and just humane issue.

Let's today begin uniting the Arab ranks, for Egypt's role has not ended with the regaining of the Sinai. Indeed, its role has actually begun with the rest of its fraternal states to escalate the cause of Palestine so that the land will return to its owners.

Egyptian sovereignty over the Sinai is indeed the strongest confirmation to the enemy that the sons of the Arab nation cannot be lax concerning the Arab rights and that struggle will continue to be our method as long as the enemy chooses terrorism to prolong his stay on its land. Victory is our objective and the regaining of our right is our most honorable concept.

Brother citizens, warm congratulations to all of you sons of Egypt who have confronted aggression and trumphed and achieved victory, paradise for Egypt's soldiers as they raise one of the flags of the Arab nation over every inch of the land of the liberated Sinai. Greetings to them, for they clashed with the enemy in the most ferocious battles and by all means until they achieved complete victory on this glorious day in April 1982. Greetings to their brethern, the sons of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as they face fire with faith just as they face arrogance with continued struggle and adherence to what is right. A flag of the Arab nation has risen in the sky of the Sinai, marking one of this nation's victories.

The sons of Palestine in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are raising their heads high with pride and victory. The day of victory in the Sinai coincides with the roaring issue in the [West] Bank and [Gaza] Strip. This alone crystallizes the genuine Arab values that are impregnated with the teachings of Islam and call for adherence to right and values.

Brother citizens, greetings to the fraternal sons of Egypt who are loyal to the land, the soil and the right. Greetings to the struggler sons of the [West] Bank and Gaza Strip as they struggle for victory or martyrdom for the sake of the land, the soil and the right and as they escalate [their struggle] by adhering to the land, from which the enemy has begun to withdraw beginning with the Sinai.

We implore God to grant us victory and success. Peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Mubarak Contacted

NC231928 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Text] While touring southern Sudan today, Sudanese President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri contacted President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to convey his happiness at the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai and to congratulate the Egyptian people on this great national achievement.

The two presidents agreed to meet soon for consultations on matters of interest to the two countries.

NUMAYRI ON DECENTRALIZATION IN SOUTHERN REGION

EA282200 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The leader president, Ja'far Muhammad Numayri, stressed he will strive to apply decentralization in the southern region through sound planning, resoluteness and orderliness. He expressed the hope that this will take place in the immediate future.

In an interview with the radio team accompanying him during his visit to the southern region, the president said through his observations and special meetings, he had seen the willingness of the citizens of the southern region to bear their responsibilities in decentralization. He said they regret not having the opportunity to apply people's local government and they asked the president and the central government to fulfill their wish. This is what we will work for.

On the political situation in the region, President Numayri said it is the same situation for the revolutionary masses everywhere, who raise slogans about issues for which they are working and whose implementation they seek.

On the security situation in the region, his excellency said it is very good with the exception of tribal differences that have existed for a long time but whose gravity has increased due to the use of firearms instead of cold steel, which the tribes previously used. [as heard]

CHAD

'OFFICIAL SOURCES' FORECAST CABINET RESHUFFLE

AB281520 Paris AFP in French 1435 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Ndjamena, 28 April (AFP) -- The Transitional National Union Government (GUNT) of Chad will be reshuffled within the next few days, official sources in Ndjamena indicated on Wednesday.

The members of the GUNT, who met in an extraordinary session to "examine the political and military situation" of the country, on Wednesday decided to "urgently summon" to the capital Vice President Kamougue Wadal Abdel Kader who for 1 month now has been in southern Chad.

This Cabinet reshuffle about which several sources in Ndjamena have been talking the past few days, will be preceded or followed by an "important" declaration to the nation by President Goukouni Oueddei, official sources stressed.

The vice president of the GUNT, it is observed in Ndjamena, has withdrawn to the south, to Moundou where he has made statements hostile to some members of the government, demanding particularly the reshuffle of a team which, he says, has become "ineffective."

GABON

BONGO CONGRATULATES MUBARAK ON SINAI RETURN

NC282240 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Telegram of "congratulations" from President Omar Bongo to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak -- no date given]

[Text] Your Excellency President Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt:

On the occasion of the Sinai's return to Egypt, I take pleasure in offering you sincerest congratulations and in informing you that the Gabonese people share the Egyptian people's delight with the arrival of this day.

On this historic occasion of your country, my memory goes back to the two departed presidents, Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir and As-Sadat, who struggled relentlessly with patience and courage so that Egypt would recover its occupied territory and its dignity.

I am confident that the peace initiative which began in their lifetime has begun to show better and new horizons for the achievement of comprehensive peace in your area.

Please accept the expressions of my great esteem.

[Signed] El-Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon

GHANA

RAWLINGS DESCRIBES ECONOMY AS 'EMPTY BUCKET'

AB281845 Accra Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Public boards, corporations and institutions which fail to justify their existence will be closed down and the workers sent to the farms to produce food. This warning was given today by the chairman of the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council], Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, when he addressed workers of the West African Mills in Takoradi.

He noted that most state institutions have become waste pipes and it is only farmers and fishermen who are really carrying the economy on their shoulders. The chairman said this is not the time for workers to demand salary increases and fringe benefits. This is because, as he put it, there is nothing to share.

Flight Lieutenant Rawlings observed that for 25 years, the country's workers have played hide-and-peck [as heard] with the state economy without making real efforts to heal it. He disclosed that the deposed Limann administration decided to print 2-billion cedis currency notes into the system when confronted with the bad state of the economy. This would have made the cedi valueless.

The PNDC chairman told the workers that the council has not only inherited what he described as an empty bucket for an economy but also one with holes in it. "We have to seal the holes before we fill the bucket," he declared. The chairman likened the state of the economy to a person who has been attacked by malaria, adding that the patient cannot lie down to even rest because the vultures will take him for dead and devour him.

TUC LAUNCHES ACTION PROGRAM TO MOBILIZE PEOPLE

AB280932 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The Trades Union Congress [TUC] yesterday launched an action program aimed at mobilizing the people towards improving and sustaining the country's socioeconomic development process. The program codelined the "TUC Task Force for Productivity and Action" is estimated to cost over 100,000 cedis. It will include, among other things, the launching of a national workers educational program, grassroot program on economic development and leadership and literacy training courses for national, regional and district trade union leaders.

Announcing this at a news conference in Accra, the acting secretary general of the congress, Mr Baiden, said the TUC will ensure a prompt beginning of all activities under the program. Activities to be undertaken include the evacuation of locked up cocoa in the rural areas to the ports and evacuation of foodstuffs from the growing areas to the marketing centers.

Under the program, productivity committees will be set up to develop programs for increased production. The committees will institute measures aimed at avoiding waste and improving workers' performance. They will also encourage hard work and selfless devotion to duty as well as ensuring efficiency in output.

Mr Baiden observed that the process of change in the country has begun to gather momentum and the labor movement, which has a vital role to play in this process, must ensure its success. He called for a free democratic and independent labor movement which he described as an indispensable institution for the development of any country. He therefore appealed to the government and the affiliated national unions of the TUC for cooperation.

COMMENTARY PRAISES EASTERN BLOC ASSISTANCE

AB231518 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 23 Apr 82

[Kojo Arthur commentary]

[Text] At a press conference yesterday, Mr Chris Atim, a member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] who recently returned from a trip to a number of socialist countries, outlined a number of specific economic areas where these countries would like to offer assistance to Ghana. Mr Chris Atim announced, for example, that Czechoslovakia would like to assist in rubber tire production at Bonsaso. Cuba would like to establish a model agricultural polytechnic and Hungary will assist in setting up brick and tile factories and build workers' flats and help expand the Ghana industrial holding corporation pharmaceutical factory. These friendly offers from the socialist countries should be seized upon immediately and the necessary agreements should be studied for quick implementation to help in our efforts to restructure our national economy.

In the 1960's, some of these socialist countries offered very practical assistance to enable Ghana to embark on her industrialization program. For example, Czechoslovakia offered us a package assistance of equipment, technical training and transfer of technology in setting up the Bonsaso rubber factory. Techno-Export of Czechoslovakia supplied equipment and erected the Komenda sugar factory. Russia and Czechoslovakia did a number of feasibility studies to determine the hydroelectric potential of the PRA, Tano and the Black Volta Rivers. All these projects were undertaken with the aim of assisting Ghana to prepare for a sustainable industrial development takeoff.

Unfortunately, the reactionary leadership that assumed power after overthrowing the farsighted Nkrumah administration abandoned most of these eastern bloc-assisted projects simply because Nkrumah had initiated such projects and anything Nkrumah did was bad. Even very viable and strategically important projects like the tire factory were given away to private investors on the advice of the IMF and the CIA front, Harvard University Economic Advisory Services, and their self-centered Ghanaian collaborators. The impression was given that it was Nkrumah who was being discredited but as that turned out, the February 24 coup recaptured lost ground for foreign private interests with the crumbs going to the Phillips, Frimpong-Ansahs and A.R. Boakyes.

The PNDC has now opened the doors to the East once again to help us embark on a self-sustaining economic development program. It is hoped that we will take advantage of the help from the East together with assistance from the West in the framework of strict nonalignment policy and in the supreme interest of the country. Stress should be placed on quick implementation of projects that will utilize extensively local raw materials so as to facilitate broader forward and backward linkages. Stress should also be placed on projects that utilize, develop and broaden the existing indigenous technological capacities.

Another important point that needs to be stressed is that we must examine critically bilateral trade arrangements between Ghana and the Eastern bloc with the view of Ghana taking advantage of the barter system to market goods processed from our raw materials. This will enable the country to benefit from the value added in processing raw materials. In this way too, our manufacturers will be given the inducement to improve the quality of made-in-Ghana goods.

LIBERIA

OFFICIAL TALKS WITH ALGERIA OPEN 26 APRIL

AB270813 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Algeria's Ambassador (El Hadj Cheik) has expressed the hope that talks between his delegation and officials of the Liberian Government will open new avenues for the promotion of cultural and economic ties between Liberia and Algeria. Mr (Cheik), who is heading a top level Algerian interministeral delegation for talks with government officials, was speaking yesterday at the formal opening of the talks at the Foreign Ministry in Monrovia. He said their current visit to Liberia will also afford his delegation and the Liberian Government the opportunity to examine issues relating to African affairs in general and the SDAR admission to membership of the OAU.

Foreign Minister H. B. Fahnbulleh, welcoming the delegation, praised the cordial relations existing between Liberia and Algeria and said every avenue will be explored to cement further the mutual understanding between the two governments for the promotion of peace and cooperation in Africa.

The Algerian high-level delegation, which arrived here last Saturday, is also expected to discuss possible bilateral cooperation in energy, commerce and agriculture with appropriate government officials. The talks are expected to continue today in the conference room of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Dinner Statements

AB271956 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Maj H. Boimah Fahnbulleh said last night that by virtue of Algeria's location and endowment she has a unique role to play in African affairs, adding it is hoped that Algeria will (?address) itself to this expansive duty. Speaking at a dinner sponsored by the Foreign Ministry in honor of the visiting Algerian interministerial delegation which arrived in Monrovia on Saturday, Minister Fahnbulleh said discussions between the delegation and Liberian Government officials will lead to improved relations between the two countries. Minister Fahnbulleh hoped that the exchange of delegations between Liberia and Algeria will lay foundations for better fraternal relations between the leaders of the two states.

For his part, the leader of the Algerian delegation, Mr (Khalid Shahid) expressed profound gratitude for the courtesy they had received from their Liberian counterparts since they arrived in Monrovia. He said the courtesy was an expression of the traditional hospitality of the Liberian people and said Algeria was willing to promote economic, cultural and technical ties with Liberia. The Algerian ambassador at last referred to Minister Fahnbulleh's recent visit to Algeria and the current visit as testimony of the growing friendship between the two governments and peoples.

SDAR Not Discussed

AB290820 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0625 GMT 29 Apr 82

[Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has noted with profound indignation the recent misleading reports by the local news media and REUTER news agency regarding the talks being held between officials of the Government of Liberia and members of the high-level interministerial delegation from Algeria. In its April 26 issue, the NEW LIBERIAN newspaper quoted diplomatic sources as saying that the talks were expected to touch on the Western Saharan issue.

The REUTER news agency also reported that the recent row in Addis Ababa with the admission of the SDAR to the OAU would be one of the major topics to be discussed by the two sides, according to a Foreign Ministry release. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphatically stated that the talks, in fact, were concerned strictly with economic and bilateral matters between Liberia and Algeria, rather than the issue of Western Sahara, and noted that such erroneous reporting only tends to undermine the efforts of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to improve the cordial, economic and diplomatic relations between Liberia and other states. The Foreign Ministry then advised all news agencies and reporters to seek clarification on sensitive foreign policy matters from its officials before going to press.

SENEGAL

PRESIDENT COMMENTS ON SDAR, LIBYA, ALGERIA

AB262034 Paris AFP in French 1741 GMT 26 Apr 82

[Text] Dakar, 26 Apr (AFP) -- President Abdou Diouf of Senegal, in an interview with the Tunisian newspaper LA PRESSE carried by the Dakar daily LE SOLEIL, says "all efforts should be made" to restore unity and cohesion within the OAU.

"But this unity and cohesion should be founded on sound bases," the Senegalese president added, while regarding the admission of the "SDAR" to the OAU council of ministers in Addis Ababa as "an act of force without legal or legitimate basis" and "politically inopportune."

[Words indistinct] referendum process is underway, Diouf said, "to speak of admitting a state therefore is tantamount to reaching a hasty conclusion regarding the will of that population" since at the end of the process, the African heads of state agreed to "draw an honest and impartial conclusion of the results of the referendum." "This seemed quite illogical to us," said President Diouf whose country boycotted the Addis Ababa meeting to protest the SDAR admission.

Regarding relations between Libya and Senegal (severed since June 1980 when Dakar accused Tripoli of interfering in its internal affairs), President Diouf said he feels there has been no change in the Libyan attitude "which would enable one to credit that country with a certain [words indistinct] needed for the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the two states."

On the approaches made by Libya with a view to improving its relations with certain African states before the OAU summit in Tripoli, the Senegalese head of state said: "Whatever the outcome of events, I should like to believe that Libya's action was not prompted only by the Tripoli summit but that it marks a change in attitude toward other African states."

President Diouf added that relations between Senegal and Algeria "are good" since the two countries have "put aside" the Western Sahara problem on which they disagree in order to develop their cooperation.

He also said he is "very satisfied" with relations between Senegal and other Arab countries and his country's relations with its neighbors (Gambia, Cape Verde, Guinea, Mali, Guinea-Bissau) "are very good."

BOTSWANA

KAUNDA-BOTHA TALKS TO BE HELD ON SOUTHERN BORDER

LD282128 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The office of President Quett Masire of Botswana says Botswana will not take part in or send observers to the talks between President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia and the South African Prime Minister Mr P.W. Botha, but it has acceded to a Zambian request that the meeting be held on the southern border of Botswana.

President Kaunda is expected to arrive in Gaborone on Friday morning and is expected to return to Lusaka the same day. It's not known exactly where the meeting will take place, but the two men will be discussing the independence of South-West Africa/Namibia.

NAMIBIA

SECURITY FORCES SHOOT TWO MORE 'TERRORISTS'

LD281152 Johannesburg International Service in English 1100 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The security forces in South-West Africa/Namibia have shot two more terrorists in followup operations north of Tsumeb in the north of the territory. The South-West Africa territory force says in a statement that 39 of the SWAPO terrorists who infiltrated the Tsumeb area have now been shot. It says that in the area south of Tsumeb the situation remains the same with the security forces on the trail of small groups of terrorists. These terrorists are now making their way in a northerly direction. The territory force says (?that) one terrorist was shot while firing a rocket at a parked road grader and a rocket launcher and several rockets were captured. The rations of the terrorists are exhausted and autopsies have shown that the men had been living from berries, grass and leaves.

SWAPO COMMUNIQUE DESCRIBES MORTAR ATTACK

EA281402 Addis Ababa Voice of Namibia in English 1900 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] Luanda -- The People's Liberation Army of Namibia -- PLAN -- combatants have killed three racist South African soldiers and wounded several others in operations in northern Namibia.

A SWAPO communique issue on Luanda yesterday said several racist South African soldiers were killed and serious material damage was inflicted in a recent mortar attack on a South African camp between (Okasinkolo) and Ondangua.

The communique said that many white farmers had lost confidence, despite appeals from the racist authorities, in the capacity of the racist South African military following these recent operations in Namibia by SWAPO combatants.

The communique further stated that SWAPO freedom fighters now dominate militarily the areas of Grootfontein, Otavi and (Do), where many white minority settlers have abandoned their farms.

As from the beginning of this month, SWAPO freedom fighters stepped up their operations deep inside Namibia, moving towards the central part of Namibia, destroying racist South African camps in the area and causing serious damage to the colonial economy.

SOUTH AFRICA

BOTHA-KAUNDA MEETING DETAILED; REACTION CITED

LD281726 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The South African prime minister, Mr P.W. Botha, will meet President Kaunda of Zambia on Friday on the border between South Africa and Botswana. This was announced in Cape Town by the South African Department of Foreign Affairs and Information. Mr Botha will be accompanied by the ministers and senior officials of the Departments of Foreign Affairs and Information and of Defense. The statement in Cape Town did not say exactly where on the South African-Botswana border the meeting would take place.

In Lusaka, President Kenneth Kaunda has confirmed that he will meet Mr Botha on Friday to discuss South-West African/Namibian independence. He told a news conference that he regarded the situation in South Africa and South-West Africa/ Namibia as explosive. He said he had informed the leaders of other southern African states of his intended meeting with Mr Botha, but he emphasized that he would not be representing any of them in his discussions. Observers in Lusaka report that President Kaunda is risking his political prestige by going ahead with the meeting without the support of other black leaders.

Western diplomats have welcomed the meeting between Mr Botha and President Kaunda as an encouraging development that could lead to greater stability and understanding in southern Africa. Representatives of the Western contact group working for a settlement in South-West Africa/Nambia are particularly interested in the meeting. Officials in London said that negotiations on the future of the territory had reached a difficult stage and any improvements resulting from the meeting would be welcome.

ANGOLA WARNED AGAINST 'HARBORING' SWAPO

LD282206 Johannesburg International Service in English 2100 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] The South African Defense Force says Angola has been warned repeatedly that it will have to bear the consequences of harboring SWAPO terrorists or becoming involved in the war with South Africa. The defense force was responding to a statement from the Angolan Embassy in Lusaka that more than 300 Angolans had been killed during the South African incursions into Angola. The South African Defense Force said it had stated on many occasions that South Africa was at war with SWAPO and SWAPO alone and that it was in South-West Africa/Namibia to protect the local population against SWAPO atrocities and terror, and if Angola wanted to support and harbor a communist orientated organization like SWAPO, it should be prepared to face the consequences.

R. BOTHA REFUSES TO COMMENT ON UK USE OF BASE

LD281630 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] In Cape Town, the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Roelof Botha, has declined to comment on an accusation by the Russian news agency that Britain is negotiating to obtain use of the Simonstown naval base. TASS said a British member of Parliament had been conducting talks with the South African authorities so that the Falkland Islands fleet could use Simonstown. Mr Botha said he had no comment on these allegations.

ZAMBIA

KAUNDA CONFIRMS MEETING WITH RSA PRIME MINISTER

AB281046 Paris AFP in English 1041 GMT 28 Apr 82

[Text] Lusaka, 28 April (AFP) -- President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia will meet South African Prime Minister Pieter Botha, on Friday this week at a rendezvous in southern Botswana to discuss the crucial Namibian independence dispute.

President Kuanda told a press conference at State House here today to commerorate this 58th birthday: "Yes, I am going to talk to Mr Botha. The situation in Namibia and South Africa is explosive."

The president said that he saw no harm in meeting Mr Botha. He had briefed his colleagues in the other frontline states -- Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe -- on what was at stake in meeting the South African leader but in doing so "we have not sought their permission," he said.

"We are going solo to help South African whites speak to the blacks. To us, this is a serious matter which has nothing to do with our economy but no one in our region should be stupid enough (to think) that they will not be affected by the explosion," the Zambian leader said.

However observers here said that President Kaunda is risking his political prestige by going ahead with the meeting in the face of no support from other black leaders in the frontline states.

Mr Kaunda said he viewed South Africa as a boat in a river approaching a cataract where the boat would capsize. His intention is to save the South African boat from capsizing and "to pump sense into these Boer friends of ours."

The president told the news conference that he was convinced South Africa wanted to pull out of the disputed territory of Namibia but that there were some problems which Pretoria feared. It is these "fears I want to clear with Mr Botha," he said.

Fears Mr Kaunda attributed to South Africa included handing power to a pro-Marxist party, Sam Nujoma's South-West African People's Organisation (SWAPO) and bringing communism closer to the South African border.

White South Africans also fear that when Mr Nujoma gains power in Namibia, that country would be turned into a base for the banned African National Congress of South Africa to launch its attacks on South Africa, President Kaunda added. He called the southern African conflict "unparalleled in the history of man," because the "haves" are all whites and the "have nots" are blacks. The situation called for blacks and whites to talk to each other, he said.

In answer to critics of the meeting President Kaunda said: "At one stage we were accused of meeting (former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian) Smith, but I met Smith and (former South African Prime Minister) John Vorster on a deal of qualitative franchise for Rhodesia." During that meeting, at Victoria Falls in August 1975, he said he had demanded the release of detained black nationalist leaders, including Joshua Nkomo, Reverend Ndebaningi Sithole, and Robert Mugabe, now prime minister of independent Zimbabwe. President Kaunda said that meeting was a turning point in the Zimbabwean independence struggle of that country. [as received] If those men had remained in detention it would have taken much longer to accomplish the objective of black majority rule, he asserted.

Although Zambians have never claimed to have achieved this, "we were the ones who did the dirty work. When Smith defaulted later, the nationalists were already outside the country and were busy intensifying the liberation struggle."

The Zambian president emphasised that he would not be representing other frontline states in his dialogue with Mr Botha, and that no other issues apart from Namibian and South African problems would be discussed at the meeting.

Warns Against Enemies

CA281056 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Excerpt] President Kaunda has alerted Zambians to be on guard against enemies to the country bent on disrupting peace in the nation between now and the next general election. The president said the enemies of the country were not happy to see the success of the country when other nations were falling apart. Dr Kaunda was speaking at the close of a 2-week governors' seminar at the (?president's citizenship) college near Kabwe. He said the country was engulfed by several enemies both internally and externally but warned that no external enemy would succeed in disrupting peace and unity in the nation but citizens themselves would be used by the enemy.

SWAPO'S NUJOMA DEPARTS FOR LUANDA AFTER TALKS

CA281058 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 27 Apr 82

[Text] SWAPO President Mr Sam Nujoma left for Luanda today after holding talks with President Kaunda. Mr Nujoma who was leading an eight-man delegation (?left for Angola) aboard a chartered executive jet. He was seen off at the international airport by Minister of Foreign Affairs Professor Lameck Goma and SWAPO officials. Mr Nujoma arrived in the country yesterday from Angola for talks with Dr Kaunda.